



Inverell Shire Council

Inverell Shire Council

**Pesticide Use
Notification Plan**

2023 – 2026

Pesticides Act 1999 No 80
Pesticides Regulation 2017

1. Introduction

This **Pesticide Use Notification Plan** has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

Pesticides (e.g. herbicides) are used by Inverell Shire Council to control priority weeds and other unwanted vegetative material on roadsides and other public lands under Council's jurisdiction. Pesticides (e.g. termiticides, rodenticides) are also used from time to time to treat white ant and other insect/vermin problems in Council buildings and other structures.

This Plan sets out how Inverell Shire Council will notify members of the community of such pesticide applications.

Definition of a pesticide

Under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, a **pesticide is an agricultural chemical product**. This is defined by the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* as being 'a substance, or mixture of substances, that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- *Destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by, or attacks of any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing; or*
- *Destroying a plant; or*
- *Modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or*
- *Attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it'.*

Aim of the Plan

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) forms part of Council's integrated pest management program to continue to control (a) declared priority weeds and (b) other invasive grasses and vegetative matter likely to interfere with public access and safety and (c) insect pests. Council's management program seeks at all times to minimise any adverse impact on the environment, and the community, through use of best practice management techniques. To this end, consideration is always given to the most practical control options including pesticides, manual removal, slashing, mulching, grazing, fire, biological control and application of high-pressure hot water (steam).

Council is committed to ensuring that, when pesticides are used, the work is carried out by accredited persons, the correct pesticide is selected, and the pesticide is used strictly in accordance with label directions.

The aim of this Plan is to fulfill the general right of the community in the Inverell Shire region to be aware of pesticides applied by Council staff or other accredited persons contracted by Council. The Plan explains how Council will notify the community of pesticide applications undertaken in public places. This Plan allows members of the community, if they wish, to avoid such public places where pesticides are applied.

The Plan describes:

- which public places are covered by the Plan;

- persons most likely to use public places and an estimate of level of use;
- how and when Council will provide the community with information regarding pesticide applications in public places;
- how the community can access this Plan and obtain more information regarding notification arrangements;
- how future reviews of this Plan will be undertaken;
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss aspects of this Plan.

2. Public Places

Council applies pesticides in the following categories of public places where the community is usually entitled to have access:

- cemeteries
- drains and other waterway areas
- easements
- laneways and pathways
- parks and gardens
- road verges and reserves
- vacant Crown land reserves
- public buildings.

The main community users of these public places and the types of pesticides applied are summarised in the following table.

Table 1. Community user groups, level of use and type of pesticides applied to public places occupied or managed by Inverell Shire Council.

<i>Public Place</i>	<i>Community Users</i>	<i>Level of Use</i>	<i>Type of Pesticide</i>
Cemeteries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors • Nearby residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low – Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Drains and other waterway areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby residents • People who work nearby • People who walk or drive past the drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low – Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Easements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby residents • People who work nearby • People who walk or drive through the easement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low – Medium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Laneways/ pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby residents • People who work nearby • People who walk or drive through the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearby residents • People who work nearby • Visitors/social groups • Sport participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Public buildings and other structures including road bridges and sewerage networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors/social groups • Nearby residents • People who work nearby • People who walk or drive through the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selective insecticides and fumigants

Public Place	Community Users	Level of Use	Type of Pesticide
Road verges and reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearby residents Motorists/cyclists People who work nearby People who walk or drive next to the road Travelling livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low for regional roads Medium – High for local roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides
Vacant Crown land reserves (including town commons)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearby residents People who work next to the reserve Visitors/social groups Livestock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium – High 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides Broadscale non-selective herbicides

3. Notification Arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are determined by an assessment of:


- the level of usage of public places where pesticides are to be used;
- the extent to which members of the public most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (eg. young children, pregnant women, the sick or the elderly) are likely to access these areas regularly;
- the extent to which sporting or other activities in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticide;
- the type of pesticide(s) used.

Notice of pesticide use will be issued in one or more of the following ways:

- published on Council's website, www.inverell.nsw.gov.au
- published on Council's Facebook page
- strategic on-site placement of pesticide signage (example right)
- postage of letters or local letter-box drops
- advertisements in the print media
- telephone, email or personal contact
- advertisements over local radio.

Use of pesticide is subject to suitable weather conditions, but wherever possible notice of treatments within town limits (except as per section 5) will be provided to the relevant public at least five (5) days prior to the event.

**NOTICE: USE OF
PESTICIDE**



Inverell Shire Council

WEED SPRAYING

Area targeted _____

Pesticide product(s) used _____

Active constituent(s) _____

Plant(s) targeted _____

Withholding period for grazing (if applicable) _____ days after application

Date of application ____/____/____ Spray operator phone no. _____

This control work is being undertaken by or on behalf of Inverell Shire Council. For more information please contact the spray operator as above or for general inquiries Council on 02 6728 8288 – General Manager, Inverell Shire Council, 144 Otho Street, INVERELL NSW 2360

The aim of this Pesticide Use Notice is to fulfill the general right of the community to be aware of any pesticide applied to outdoor public places by Council staff or other accredited persons contracted by Council. This Notice allows community members the option to avoid such outdoor public places and any form of contact with such pesticide(s).

In cases of treatment of weeds along public roadsides beyond town limits (usually >50 KPH zones) notice will be provided by means of an A3 size weatherproof “pesticide-use sign” (example above) placed, on the day, at either end of treated area.

4. What Information will be Provided

In accordance with clause 40 of the Regulation, notice of pesticide use will provide the following information:

- the place where the pesticide is to be used
- the proposed date, or range of dates, of the pesticide use
- the full product name of the pesticide
- product active constituent(s)
- the purpose of the use, clearly stating what weed/other is being targeted
- any warnings regarding re-entry or other use of the site after pesticide application
- the telephone number of the contract sprayer or agent who can be contacted to discuss use of the pesticide
- contact details for Inverell Shire Council.

5. Situations where Notice of Pesticide Use will not normally Apply

Public notice will not normally be provided in situations where Council parks/garden staff use small quantities of common pesticides (eg of types widely available in retail outlets to the public and ordinarily used for domestic purposes including home gardening).

Application of these herbicides is by wick-wiper, cut/scrape/paint or low-pressure knapsack spray, where in each case chances of spray drift or other off-target damage is very minimal.

6. How the Community will be Informed of this Plan

Inverell Shire Council has advised the community of this Plan and its contents by:

- making copies of the Plan available for viewing at each of Council’s branch offices
- advertising the Plan on Council’s website www.inverell.nsw.gov.au
- advertising the plan on Council’s Facebook page
- advertising the Plan in local print media
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

7. Register of businesses/persons with reservations on the use of Pesticides within an immediate radius of their location

The Pesticides Regulation 2017 includes a “sensitive place” to be any school, kindergarten, childcare centre, hospital, medical centre or nursing home. Inverell Shire Council has set up an official Pesticide Sensitive Register to record locations of these premises.

Staff involved in weed control work on public places adjacent to these sensitive locations will be reminded that special precautions are to be taken eg any necessary pesticide applications

are restricted to periods of gazetted school holidays, or during certain times of the day where odours (if any) from the pesticide are most unlikely to affect occupiers of such premises.

Council also acknowledges that certain farming enterprises choose to operate under organic certification standards, and/or grow extremely sensitive crops (eg tomatoes) which may be close to their property boundaries. In these situations, normal spray treatment of public roadsides/reserves within or adjacent to these properties may present a risk to their operations. Similarly, certain individual members of the community have a known medical intolerance to some pesticides.

Operators of these organic/market garden types of farming businesses, or other individuals with particular problems with pesticides, are therefore invited to have their location details recorded on Council's Pesticide Sensitive Register.

Nominations, accompanied by proof of sensitivity (eg medical certificates, organic certification) should be forwarded in writing to:

General Manager
Inverell Shire Council
144 Otho Street (PO Box 138)
INVERELL NSW 2360

Businesses/individuals recorded on the Pesticide Sensitive Register will receive a minimum seven (7) days written notification of Council's intention to apply pesticides near their properties when such programmed work involves broad scale applications of pesticides using motorised application equipment.

8. Future reviews of the Plan

The Plan will be reviewed every three years. The next review is due in August 2026, or sooner if circumstances require a prior review.

The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the Plan;
- exhibiting the Plan to the public for a period of thirty (30) working days, calling for written submissions commenting on the Plan;
- making further recommendations or alterations resulting from public submissions.

Amendments to the Pesticide Use Notification Plan that are of a minor nature will be undertaken in accordance with clause 44 of the Pesticide Regulation 2017.

9. Contact Details

Anyone wishing to contact Inverell Shire Council regarding this Pesticide Use Notification Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications conducted by Council should contact:

General Manager
Inverell Shire Council
144 Otho Street (PO Box 138)
INVERELL NSW 2360

www.inverell.nsw.gov.au

Telephone 02 6728 8288

Acknowledgment: - plan adapted from Department of Environment and Conservation NSW guidelines – modified for Inverell Shire Council by P Sutton Aug 2020, Reviewed G Doman 2023