



Use of Pesticides in Public Places

KFA Natural and Built Environment

Status Council

Responsible Division Technical Services

Objective The policy establishes Council's approach to pest management and the use of pesticides in public places within the City of Nedlands.

Context

Pesticide management is an essential activity on all land within the City of Nedlands in respect to State legislation and the community's expectations for maintaining local landscapes, sports fields, residential amenity and public health and safety in conjunction with Council's commitment to environmental conservation.

The use of the terms 'pest' and 'pesticide' are generic and for the purposes of this policy 'pest' means a weed, insect, pathogen, feral animal or disease vector and 'pesticide' means any herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, algaecide, rodenticide or termiticide.

Statement

The City will develop key management strategies for the control of pests within public places. Where practical, the City will implement pest management approaches with the objective of reducing risk to persons, animals and the environment through minimising pesticide use, to the extent possible, in public places whilst maintaining acceptable pest control outcomes.

Risk minimisation strategies shall be incorporated into operational plans that take into consideration the following principles:

- The extent to which pesticide use may be minimised through adopting Integrated Pest Management principles whilst maintaining acceptable pest control outcomes. Methodologies may include, but not be limited to, mechanical control, biological control and other preventative cultural practices and strategies.
- Risk assessment and management inclusive of rigorous contract management and supervision, adherence to regulatory and product label requirements, training, auditing and reporting of positive and negative outcomes.



- The City's obligations in relation to natural area management, bushland conservation and public health for controlling declared and high priority environmental weeds, plant pathogens, feral animals and disease vectors.
- Where pesticides are to be used in a pest management program, their selection will be based on utilising registered pesticide products that are fit for purpose and able to demonstrate a low risk to human, animal and environmental health.
- With regard to safety of registered pesticide products, the City of Nedlands will comply with the rulings of the AVPMA, as reviewed from time to time.
- Recognition of the 20 meter "No Spray" buffer zone established between the Swan River and the City's river foreshore reserves, with the exception of approved pesticide application undertaken as part of natural area management.

Pesticide Application Activities

Management of pesticide application activities in public places will ensure implementation of best practice principles and compliance with statutory obligations with particular attention to the following:

- activities are performed with strict adherence to the requirements of the *Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011*;
- ensuring the City's contractors are licenced in accordance with Department of Health requirements;
- the City's pesticide storage, handling and mixing facilities are compliant with Australian Standard AS 2507-1998;
- the storage, handling, disposal of unused pesticide and clean-up of equipment is carried out in accordance with the applicable regulations, product label directions and relevant codes of practice;
- all City staff involved in pesticide application operations are trained in the safe storage, handling, mixing, transport and application of pesticides, to a level that would allow licencing by the Department of Health as a Pest Management Technician;
- ensuring adequate records are maintained of pesticide application activities undertaken by the City and its contractors;
- appropriate supervision of internal and contract pesticide application activities to ensure any risk to the public that may arise is adequately managed;
- pesticide application activities shall be managed such that spray drift is avoided and, where possible, the use of shrouded nozzles and booms are utilised to eliminate spray drift and the potential for associated 'off target' effects; and
- advertising, maintaining and implementing a 'No Spray' register of residents who have advised their objection to the application of pesticides to land adjoining their property.



Council Leased Premises

Where lessees intend to employ pesticide application on Council property, as a pest management activity, they must submit a 'Pesticide Management Plan' to the City for approval as a condition of the lease arrangements. The 'Pesticide Management Plan' will include and address, as a minimum, the pest management requirements outlined in this policy.

Private Use of Pesticides

Residents of the City of Nedlands are encouraged to maintain the nature strip adjacent to their property. The use of pesticides by residents on public thoroughfares, in which the nature strip is located, is permissible subject to the following conditions:

- Only registered pesticide products are approved for use on nature strips.
- Pesticides are to be used only:
 - in accordance with label and safety instructions;
 - in a manner which does not pose risk of harm to the environment, to street trees or to the public using the nature strip;
 - in a manner that is not likely to cause the pesticide to unnecessarily enter onto a road and/or into the City's road drainage network.
- Other than for nature strips, pesticides are not to be applied to any other public land without the consent of the City.

Notification Arrangements

Notification to the public of the City's pesticide application activities will be in accordance with the City of Nedlands "Pesticide Use Notification Plan" which shall establish an appropriate level of consultation with internal and external stakeholders and that will take in account:

- The providing of timely and accurate information about the City's pesticide application activities;
- The level of public usage where pesticides may be used;
- The extent to which members of the public who could be sensitive to pesticides will be exposed;
- The extent to which members of the public who participate in the activities generally undertaken in application areas could be exposed to pesticides being used;
- The types of pesticides used; and
- Notifications may include the use of signs, website information, local newspaper advertisements, emails, letters and phone contact.



Council uses small quantities of pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of signage or general informal on the City's website. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a manually operated backpack or hand-held spray wand.

Related Documentation

Nature Strip Development Policy
Nature Strip Development Guidelines
Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Related Local Law / Legislation

Local Government Act 1995.
Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984.
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995.
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) regulations 1995.
Health Act 1911.
Health (Pesticides) Regulations 1956.
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994. (Commonwealth).
Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Amendment Act 2003. (Commonwealth).
City of Nedlands Thoroughfares Local Law.

Related Delegation

Nil.

Review History

28 November 2017 (Report CPS28.17) – name change from Use of Pesticides and
Herbicides
27 July 2010 (Report CM17.10)