



**CAUTION**  
  
**HERBICIDE  
APPLICATION  
IN PROGRESS**

**PENRITH  
CITY COUNCIL**

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**HERBICIDE NOTIFICATION**

PRODUCT NAME:	Casper / Pennmag
CHEMICAL NAME:	Dicamba / Metolachlor
PRODUCT USE:	Broadleaf weeds
DATE OF USE:	21-9-2020
LOCATION:	Kingsway Touch

**PESTICIDE USE  
NOTIFICATION PLAN FOR  
OUTDOOR PUBLIC PLACES**

**PENRITH  
CITY COUNCIL**

[penrith.city](http://penrith.city)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places owned or controlled by public authorities. Though not required by the Regulation, the notification plan also provides information on how notice will be given of pesticide use in the interiors of identified Penrith City Council buildings.

The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid potential contact with pesticides, if they wish. The council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

This plan sets out how Penrith City Council will notify the community of pesticide applications it makes, or allows to be made, to public places that it owns or controls.

The plan describes:

- which public places are covered by the plan
- who regularly uses these public places, and an estimate of the level of use
- how and when the council will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (that is, what notification arrangements will be used)
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted, and
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

This plan forms a component of Council's Pesticide Management Policy. This policy states that Council uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate unwanted vegetation and pests, to protect public property from pest damage, and to protect users of public places from nuisance danger.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Frequency of programmed applications range from 6-8 times per year for sports fields, 2-5 times per year for parks and gardens, and twice yearly for public thoroughfares. Bait insecticides are used for termite control and to protect structures and public safety, wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides, rodenticides, bird baits and large vertebrate baits. Further information on Council's pesticides can be obtained by calling Penrith City Council on 4732 7777 or by visiting the website at [www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au).

## 2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Penrith City Council proposes to use, or allow the use, of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Local Government Area (LGA):

- public gardens
- parks
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- public land owned or controlled by Council, including:
  - road verges and reserves
  - laneways and pathways
  - road, rail, utility or other easements accessible to the public
  - drains
  - external areas of buildings managed by Council and surrounding landscape

Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan also provides information on how notice of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Penrith City Council buildings will be given to the community. The facilities include:

- the Civic Centre
- community halls/centres
- libraries
- childcare facilities
- recreation facilities

Table 1 summarises Council’s estimated level of community use and regular user groups for each of these public place categories. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place is also provided.

PUBLIC PLACES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY COUNCIL	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE
(a) Public parks and gardens, including external gardens and landscapes of Council-managed buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young families</li> <li>• Elderly people</li> <li>• General recreation users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers, picnickers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High (frequent use by multiple users with short to medium length stays)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale nonselective herbicides</li> <li>• Termiticides</li> <li>• Miticides</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> </ul>
(b) Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young families</li> <li>• Elderly people</li> <li>• General recreation users (e.g. joggers, dog walkers, picnickers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale nonselective herbicides</li> <li>• Termiticides</li> </ul>
(c) Picnic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families</li> <li>• Other social groups and clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale nonselective herbicides</li> <li>• Termiticides</li> </ul>

PUBLIC PLACES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY COUNCIL	REGULAR USER GROUPS	LEVEL OF USE OF PUBLIC PLACE	TYPE OF PESTICIDE USE
(d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>School sports groups</li> <li>General recreation users (eg joggers, dog walkers)</li> <li>Personal trainers and participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Termiticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> <li>Miticides</li> <li>Fungicides</li> </ul>
(e) Council laneways and pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>People who work in this area</li> <li>Visitors to the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High to low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
(f) Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>Visitors walking or driving on the road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low for rural roads</li> <li>Medium to high for urban roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
(g) Easements accessible to the public (specifically road, sewer or electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>People who work in the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low to medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
(h) Council drains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents living adjacent to the drain</li> <li>Visitors who walk or drive past the drain</li> <li>People working in the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Broadscale insecticides</li> </ul>
(i) Interior of certain council buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly)</li> <li>Young children and their carers (childcare facilities)</li> <li>Parents/groups/ playgroups</li> <li>All community facility users (including local residents, community organisations and group participants)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot insecticides</li> <li>Bait rodenticides</li> <li>Spray termiticides</li> <li>Spray ant control</li> <li>Bait termiticides</li> <li>Bait ant control</li> <li>Bait bird control</li> </ul>
(j) Bushland and bush regeneration areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents living adjacent to bushland</li> <li>Visitors to bushland</li> <li>Bushcare groups</li> <li>Council staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
(k) Sensitive places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local residents</li> <li>Visitors</li> <li>Hirer or people enrolled to the facility</li> <li>Council staff/contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium/High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>

### 3. NOTIFICATION

This section of the plan describes how and when Penrith City Council will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification requirements are based on Council's assessment of:

- the level of usage of public places where pesticides may be applied
- the extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (for example, young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use these areas regularly
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as picnic areas where food is consumed, and sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground), and
- the type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use will be communicated via a combination of:

- signs
- information on Council's website (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticides use in public places)
- social media platforms
- door knocking if deemed required
- Council will implement a process as to how notifications will be made to internal stakeholders

Council will also allow people and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register. This will allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide used in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

Council uses small quantities of some pesticides 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 this description in this plan (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control or indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans, and spot weed control using a wand or hand-held spray bottle.

#### 3.1. HOW AND WHEN NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE WILL BE PROVIDED

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following place categories owned and controlled by Council within the LGA:

- public parks and gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities

In these public places, signs will be provided to inform the general community near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application, and remain until the withholding period expires for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective herbicides
- broadscale non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticide
- fungicides (on relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides and ant control
- bait termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait bird control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait rodenticide (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of sensitive place, section 3.4) the residents will be provided with 48 hours notice prior to targeted activity by door knock or letterbox drop (whichever is most suitable).

For playgrounds and picnic areas only, prior notice will be extended to seven days by placing signs for all the above pesticide uses. Signage will be removed at the end of the withholding period.

For sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities, sporting groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with council can also have notice of the above pesticide uses emailed or telephoned at least 48 hours prior to application.

Information will be available to the general community on Council's website about the forward program for the above applications (updated every three months), and on the following pesticide uses in outdoor recreation areas:

- spot herbicides
- spot insecticides
- bait ant control

### **3.2. OUTDOOR PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES AND CERTAIN EASEMENTS ASSESSMENT TO THE PUBLIC**

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following categories of public places owned or controlled by Council within the LGA:

- laneways and pathways
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths
- road sewer and electrical easements accessible to the public drains

In these public places, information on the upcoming programs for broadscale herbicide will be posted on Council's website every 3 months. For drains only, information on the upcoming program for use of herbicides will also be included on Council's webpage.

Information on the programmed and reactive spot use of herbicides will also be posted on Council's website every three months. Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, and/or for parties who register interest with Council, prior notice by email or telephone will be provided at least five days before the expected date or dates of broadscale herbicide application for all the above pesticide uses.

Notice will not be given where occupiers of properties adjacent to council public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near the properties.

### **3.3 CERTAIN COUNCIL BUILDINGS**

For pesticide use in Council chambers, council-owned libraries, community halls and centres, leisure centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by council, signs will be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 48 hours prior to application and remain in place for the withholding period for:

- spot use of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides, and
- spray and control.

Information for the general community will be posted on Council's website every three months about the above applications and on the following pesticide uses in the above council buildings:

- bait termiticides
- bait ant control, and
- bait bird control

In addition, five days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in council childcare facilities, community facilities and recreation facilities will be given to operators of the facilities.

### **3.4 SPECIAL MEASURES FOR SENSITIVE PLACES**

Clause 39 of the Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home
- place declared to be sensitive by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use in outdoor public places adjacent to sensitive places for each category of public places have already been noted.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council will provide concurrent notice shortly before use to the occupier by door-knock or letterbox drop, depending on which is suitable.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council will organise a door knock in the area near the sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes prior, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.

### **3.5 EMERGENCY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS**

An emergency pesticide application in a public place may be required to deal with biting or dangerous pests (such as rodents, wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or similar creatures). In these situations, Council will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council will provide information via its website and social media platforms, or members of the public can ask for information from the person applying the pesticide.

### **3.6 PESTICIDE CONTRACTORS AND LESSEES OF PUBLIC PLACES**

Where Council uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Council will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council-owned land that remains a public place, and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

## **4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED**

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticide uses will include the following information:

- full product name of the pesticide to be used
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use
- the places where the pesticide is to be used
- a contact telephone number and email address of the Council Officer people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

As already noted, Council's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if appropriate, emergency pesticide use in public places with a link to this notification plan. The relevant website address will be publicised on Council's regular social media pages.

## 5. INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

Council will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office, at 601 High Street Penrith, and at 207 Queen Street, St Marys
- placing a copy of the plan on Council's website at [www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

## 6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every three years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes, and calling for public submissions
- in light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

## 7. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Operations Coordinator Public Spaces Maintenance

601 High Street Penrith

PO Box 60, Penrith

02 4732 7777

[council@penrith.city](mailto:council@penrith.city)

or access the website [www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au](http://www.penrithcity.nsw.gov.au)