1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Part 4B of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how the Department of Education and Training will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it owns or controls.

The Department’s general policy is that the use of chemical treatments (e.g. pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides) for the control of pests on school grounds should only be undertaken as a last resort after considering all alternative methods using integrated pest management principles (IPM). Full information on the Department’s approach to IPM and pesticides that may be used is available in the draft publication Pesticide Use in DET School Buildings and Grounds.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The Regulation defines prescribed outdoor public places which must be covered by the notification plan, the definition of which excludes the insides of any buildings or structures. The prescribed public places owned or controlled by the Department which this plan applies to are:

- the grounds of Government schools and establishments maintained by the Technical and Further Education Commission, [clause 11J(1)(b)], and
- public land owned or controlled by the Department to which the public is entitled to have access, [clause 11J(1)(a)].

A number of place categories are identified in the following table, but it should be noted that parts of school grounds may in fact have little or no potential for legal public access. The Department’s estimate of the regular user groups and level of use in each of these categories is summarised in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular user groups</th>
<th>Level of access to DET site by user groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td>Students and teachers, Parents, Support staff, General public</td>
<td>High, Medium, Medium, Medium, Nil to medium (see note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car parks, driveways and bus bays</td>
<td>Students and teachers, Parents, Support staff</td>
<td>Medium, Medium, Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ovals and other outdoor sports facilities</td>
<td>Students and teachers, Parents, Ground staff, General public, Non-school sporting groups</td>
<td>Medium, Low to medium, High, Nil to medium (see note 2), Nil to medium (see note 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Regular user groups</td>
<td>Level of access to DET site by user groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field studies centres</td>
<td>Students and teachers</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Nil to Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural plots</td>
<td>Students and teachers</td>
<td>Low to medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor recreation and common areas of TAFE</td>
<td>Students and teachers</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>facilities</td>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Nil to medium (see note 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared public paths, access ways and commons</td>
<td>Students and teachers</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support staff</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General public</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other public land – accessible exterior of</td>
<td>Non teaching staff &amp; contractors</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental offices and depots</td>
<td>Visiting teachers</td>
<td>Low to medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other visitors</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

1. The level and frequency of public use of some of school sites varies. The majority of schools are only open to public access for specific events, such as fetes. Some sites have more frequent public access such as weekend markets or use by community groups.
2. The level and frequency of public use of Departmental sporting facilities varies, with some being enclosed and others being open to public access and/or use by non-school sports.
3. The public can freely access some, but not all TAFE sites.

**3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

This section describes the pesticide uses for which notice will be provided, how and when notice will be provided, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and parts of school and TAFE grounds where notice will not be given.

These notification arrangements have been developed with consideration to:

- the Department’s IPM approach, which seeks to minimise use of pesticides and requires all significant pesticide use at times when facilities are not occupied by school staff and students (eg late on Fridays or preferably during school vacations);
- the potential areas offered for public access;
- the amount of pesticide being used; and
- ensuring notification is well targeted.

**3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided**

For the following categories of public places, notice will be given of all pesticide uses where the amount being applied for a particular job equals or exceeds half the outdoor quantities requiring application by a qualified person.
The Pesticides Regulation 1995, provides an exemption 7A,(3),(d),(i)). for quantities outdoor use of 20 litres or or 20 kilograms of ready to use product or 5 litres or 5 kilograms of concentrated product. DET has placed notification limits at 50% of these quantities i.e. if the quantity exceeds 10 litres or 10 kilograms of “ready-to-use” product or 2.5 litres or 2.5 kilograms of concentrated product notification is required..

The pesticide “products” referred to are limited to domestically available pesticides normally used in residential or home garden situations. Notice will not be given for pesticide uses requiring quantities less than these amounts.

The notification process will be undertaken by the DET site facility manager, in the case of a school this is the principal and TAFE the College director.

**School grounds – including playgrounds, carparks, driveways, bus bays**

For school grounds including playgrounds, carparks, driveways and bus bays, notice will be provided to each of the following user groups at least 24 hours prior to application by one of the indicated methods:

- **parents** - information in the school newsletter OR in a note sent home with students;
- **teachers and support staff** - posting a note on sign-on books, by note in pigeon-holes, by announcement at assembly OR announcement at a staff meeting;
- **school P&C** – if requested by the P&C (where there is one) in person, by phone, fax, email OR in writing, according to local agreement; and
- **community groups who use school facilities** - if the pesticide use is to occur within 24 hours prior to times these groups are known to use affected school facilities, notice will be provided in person, by phone, fax, email OR in writing, according to local agreement.

**Ovals and other outdoor sports facilities**

For school ovals and other outdoor sports facilities, notice will be provided to the following user groups at least 24 hours prior to application by one of the indicated methods:

- **parents** - information in the school newsletter OR in a note sent home with students;
- **teachers and support staff** - posting a note on sign-on books, by note in pigeon-holes, by announcement at assembly OR announcement at a staff meeting;
- **school P&C** – if requested by the P&C (where there is one) in person, by phone, fax, email OR in writing, according to local agreement; and
- **sporting and community group users** - if the pesticide use is to occur within 24 hours prior to times these groups are known to use affected sports facilities, notice will be provided in person, by phone, fax, email OR in writing, according to local agreement.

**Field studies centres**

For field studies centres, notice of pesticide use will be provided to any school groups visiting the centre in the 24 hour period following a proposed application. Staff responsible for organising the pesticide application will ensure that notice will be
provided by phone, fax, email or in writing at least 24 hours prior to the visit occurring.

**Outdoor areas of TAFE campuses**
For pesticide use in outdoor common areas, recreation areas, parking areas and landscaped areas of TAFE campuses, notice will be provided by posting a notice on the main notice board OR at the main office of the campus/site at least 24 hours prior to the planned application.

**Shared public paths, access ways and commons**
Where pesticides are applied to public paths, access ways and commons shared with school grounds, notice will be provided according to the arrangements already outlined for school grounds. Where other public authorities apply pesticides to these areas, notice will be provided in accord with their pesticides notification plan.

**Measures for sensitive places**
Clause 11J(1) of the *Pesticides 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 a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (now a part of the Department of Environment and Conservation) – none have been declared.

School grounds are already covered by this definition. Where after-school care or other childcare facilities are co-located with schools, the operators of these facilities will be provided with notice at least 24 hours prior to the application in person, by phone, fax, email OR in writing, according to local agreement.

**Notification of emergency pesticide applications**
In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), or with plague animals, advance notice will not be provided. Where emergency applications require amounts of pesticide use that would otherwise require notice under this place, notice will be provided to user groups at the earliest practicable opportunity by the normally required method.

**Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places**
The Department uses contractors to apply pesticides under Government Contract no. 6037. Delivery of notice of pesticide use by appointed contractors may be made by local arrangement, noting that the Regulation dictates that the Department retains legal responsibility if notice is not provided in accordance with this plan.
Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Departmental land that remains open to public access, the Department will not provide notice of the lessee’s pesticide use.

3.2 Places for which no notice will be provided

Notice will not be provided for places that have restricted access and which effectively do not function as public places. These will include the following parts of the grounds of schools and TAFE establishments:

- agricultural and horticultural plots, including farm areas in agricultural high schools;
- areas that are fenced off to prevent un-authorised access, particularly those with site security fencing.

Notice will not be provided for pesticide applications to the exterior areas of Departmental offices and depots.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used, and
- the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated, and
- the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use, and
- the places where the pesticide is to be used, and
- contact telephone number and email address of the Council officer who 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\(^1\) permit.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

The Department will advise the community of this plan and its contents by:

- having a copy of the notification plan available free of charge, at its Asset Management Directorate office at Level 13, 55 Market Street Sydney 2000;
- placing a notice in the Sydney Morning Herald; and
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

\(^1\) The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.
The notification plan will be reviewed every five years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- a report on the implementation of the plan;
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan, including producing a review report, calling for public submissions, and if required exhibiting a new plan for comment with proposed amendments; and
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact the Department to discuss the notification plan should contact:

General Manager, Asset Management
Department of Education and Training
PO Box 33
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Ph: 9561 8632  Fax: 9561 8077

or access the website www.det.nsw.edu.au