

## Upper Macquarie County Council

### **KEY DOCUMENT: UMCC\_2019/04**

### **Pesticides Use Notification Plan**

***Setting out the way in which the County Council uses herbicides and notifies the public about herbicide use to control weeds.***

Amended by: Upper Macquarie County Council  
Review Date: Every 3 years or as required

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
Next Due: February 2023

Key Document Approved by:

*David Young*

David Young  
General Manager

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan was initially adopted by the Council on 2nd February 2007, amended on 3 August 2012, and subsequently further amended on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The Plan has been amended most recently so it is updated to meet the requirements of Part 5, Division 2 of the *Pesticides Regulation (2017)*.

The Upper Macquarie County Council is a single purpose local control authority for weeds under the *Biosecurity Act (2015)* for the combined areas of Bathurst Regional Council, Lithgow City Council, Oberon Council and Blayney Shire Council.

The Upper Macquarie County Council does not own or directly control any public land. Notwithstanding, from time to time the Council uses herbicides to undertake weed control, on public land, on behalf of a local council that is a constituent council of the Upper Macquarie County Council under the Local Government Act (1993).

## 2. PROVIDING PUBLIC NOTICE

The County Council only uses herbicides for the purpose of controlling prescribed pest plants [weeds] and will give public notice of the proposed use of herbicides in the prescribed public place where it has control at the time and for the purposes of weed control. Rural Roadsides is the only prescribed public place in respect of which the County Council intends to provide any notification of the proposed use of herbicides

The County Council will give notice to the general public and the affected persons of the proposed use of herbicides on Rural Roadsides generally by (a) posting the 'Roadside Spraying Program' in a prominent location on the County Council Website and the Websites of constituent councils where they agree to do so, (b) providing in conjunction with the program this Plan which is also to be posted in a prominent location on the County Council Website, and (c) supplement the Plan and Program information in terms of standard signage during actual spraying operation on the Rural Roadsides at the start end points of the work locations and on the Operators vehicle.

## 3. SPECIAL PLACE PROTECTIONS

Special protection measures will be taken if a herbicide is proposed to be used on Rural Roadsides that are adjacent to a sensitive place.

Before using a pesticide adjacent to a sensitive place the County Council will consider the feasibility of using natural herbicides rather than synthetic herbicides or the feasibility of mechanical means of weed control (such as mowing or slashing). Where herbicides are to be used, the County Council will apply them only by hand application, preferably outside busy operating hours for the place, and will use its best endeavours to notify the owner or controller of the sensitive place of the proposed use before that use takes place.

## 4. AFFECTED PERSONS

The *affected persons* are those who regularly use Rural Roadsides and have been identified as vehicle occupants (visitors, locals and tourists), cyclists (on major roads), adjacent landholders, council and utility employees and contractors, and travelling or grazing stock.

The degree of use of Rural Roadsides by these affected persons under normal conditions is estimated to be relatively low in terms of involving: minimal foot traffic, regular vehicular travel activity, adhoc worker activity, and infrequent stock grazing.

In limited circumstances, where a person has made a specific request in advance and substantiated they have a special need, then individual notice may be provided (where practical) up to 7 days before herbicide spraying takes place. The individual notice will be given as per the current 'rate notice' contact details for the subject property. This provision applies particularly, but not exclusively, to a person that have a special sensitivity to a pesticide that the County Council is likely to use to control noxious weeds on roads, and produces to the Council a medical certificate by a registered medical practitioner evidencing that sensitivity, or a person that is a certified organic producer of any foodstuff.

## 5. HERBICIDE USE

The key herbicides to be used by the County Council (with an emphasis on active ingredient rather than brand name) are:

- Taskforce (Flupropanate)
- Ken-Met (Metsulfuron)
- Ken-Up (Glyphosate)
- Ken-zon (Triclopyr & Picloram)
- MCPA 750 (MCPA)
- Lontrel (Clopyralid)
- Herbidye (Red Marker Dye)
- Wetter 1000 (Surfactant)
- Chemtrol /ProCan Oil (Canola Oil - Wetter)

The purposes for which each herbicide is to be used is, subject to label conditions, to control pest plants that are weeds of national significance, priority weeds for the Central Tablelands of NSW, or weeds of local community concern in the Upper Macquarie County District.

The non-exclusive emphasis is on controlling the following weeds that are priority weeds according to the Central Tablelands Regional Weed Management Plan 2017-2022: Serrated Tussock, Blackberry, St Johns Wart, Chilean Needle Grass, English Broom, Cape Broom, Privet, Fireweed, and Gorse.

The application methods to be used will comprise any one or more of hand-held devices (such as vehicle mounted and backpack sprayers) and boom-spraying equipment mounted on machinery.

## 6. ROADSIDE SPRAYING PROGRAM

The annual roadside spraying program published on the County Council Website will provide the range of dates during which, the pesticide are expected to be used subject to local weather conditions. The places where the pesticide is to be used are listed in the roadsides schedule in the program. Any warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of or entry onto the treated roadsides, if such warnings are specified on the approved label for the pesticide will be highlighted in the program.

Where the County Council uses contractors to apply herbicides on its behalf, the contractors will be required to provide the operational onsite notification to the public according to the requirements of the Plan.

## **7. FURTHER INFORMATION**

The contact details for a Weed Biosecurity Officer of the County Council to whom a member of the general public or an affected persons can contact to discuss the plan or the notice is Email: [admin.umcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.umcc.nsw.gov.au), and telephone number (02) 6338 2875 during normal office hours.

A copy of the Plan is available for viewing, free of charge, on the County Council Website [www.umcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.umcc.nsw.gov.au) or in person between 8.30 am and 3.00pm weekdays at the County Council offices located at 7 Lee Street, Kelso NSW.

## **8. EXCLUSIONS FROM NOTIFICATION**

The County Council does not intend to provide any notification (in terms of the Pesticides Regulation) to any person where it undertakes weed control spraying (as a 'contractor') for a constituent council on land and for purposes covered by that council's own Pesticide Notification Plan OR where the County Council undertakes enforcement action under the Biosecurity Act (2015) involving pesticide spraying on private or public land.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Plan in a biosecurity emergency where a priority weed outbreak requires immediate biosecurity action to prevent the growth or spread of the priority weed, and the giving of notice that might otherwise be required by the Plan is not feasible, the County Council will not give any notice of a proposed pesticide application.

## **9. REVIEW OF PLAN**

The County Council Pesticides Notification Plan will be reviewed every four years or at other time when the Pesticides Regulation is amended.