

POLICY NAME: PESTICIDE USE
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OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Ballina Shire Council Pesticide Use Policy are to:

- maintain public health and safety within Ballina Shire
- reduce weeds and their impact from public areas
- reduce pests and their impact from public buildings
- minimise environmental pollution
- inform the public of pesticide use
- minimise the cost and use of pesticides where possible.

POLICY

This Policy covers all pesticide use by Council staff, contractors, Rous County Council and community members to ensure that such activity is safe to all persons and the environment and effective in pest control.

1.1 Responsibility for Pesticide Applications

It is the responsibility of Council to ensure that all pesticide applications are only undertaken by authorised and qualified persons.

1.2 Pesticide Regulation

Pesticide use must comply at all times with the Pesticide Regulation 2017 and other listed legislation. This is to include for the purposes of managing qualifications, safety, usage and recording.

Pesticide use must comply with Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan at all times. This is for the purpose of notifying members of the community regarding pesticide use.

1.3 Pesticide Procurement

Pesticide use must comply with Council's Chemical Procurement Procedure at all times. This is to include for the purposes of managing the acquisition, storage, handling and disposal of pesticides.

1.4 Personnel Safety and Protective Equipment

Council shall supply the necessary facilities and equipment to allow the pesticide user to undertake their responsibilities with pesticides in a safe and healthy manner and to comply with the requirements of AS 2507 The Storage and Handling of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals.

Where required, Council will undertake a health monitoring program of authorised pesticide users.

1.5 Roadside Pesticide Free Areas

Landholders may apply to maintain adjacent roadsides as pesticide free areas. The requirements are outlined in the Roadside Pesticide Free Area fact sheet.

1.6 Use of certain pesticides including neonicotinoids, friponil and diazinon

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is currently undertaking a chemical review of neonicotinoids, Friponil and Diazinon.

The use of these pesticides continues to be permissible during the review period, however, under this policy, these pesticides will only be considered for use in circumstances where the application is required to address an essential public interest and no other alternative treatment is feasible. The General Manager's approval (or an appropriate senior officer delegate) will be required prior to any use. An example of a circumstance of when the use of these pesticides may be warranted is to manage a biosecurity or other ecological risk.

BACKGROUND

Ballina Shire Council manages an extensive and diverse range of public places that includes but is not limited to public reserves, road reserves, footpaths, cycle paths, bushland reserves, gardens, public buildings, playgrounds and operational lands.

Council has a responsibility to manage these areas to provide for:

- a broad range of active and passive recreation opportunities for a diverse range of user groups, community members and visitors across the shire
- conservation of places of natural, cultural and heritage value
- public and visual amenity
- the delivery of council services and maintenance.

Across all these land uses, weed and pest control programs are a management priority for Council and pesticides are an essential component of many of these programs. Pesticide use is about balancing public safety against the benefits pest and weed control provide, to ensure the best outcome.

DEFINITIONS

Authorised Person is a person authorised to undertake pesticide applications on behalf of Council, and is qualified as per the Pesticide Regulation 2017 in the safe use of chemicals, and can consist of Council staff, contractors, Rous County Council and volunteers.

Pest an unwanted biological entity; including animal, plant and microbe

Pesticide a chemical (or mixture of chemicals) intended to be used for the selective control of pests. Pesticide does include chemicals used for the control of pests in buildings, in air systems, and in water systems. Pesticide also includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, algacides, rodenticides and molluscicides.

Pesticide Application is the dispersal of a pesticide over a target area or volume.

Pesticide Operation includes any or all of the processes of pesticide acquisition, storage, mixing, application (including supervision of an application undertaken by a private pest control firm), and disposal.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to:

- Council or Crown employees
- Councillors
- Community volunteers
- Person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU's), Contractors
- Lessees or licensees of Council or Crown premises
- Rous County Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Legislation

- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Pesticides Act 1999
- Pesticides Regulation 2017
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Australian Standards

- **AS 2476:** General Fumigation Procedures
- **AS 2507:** The Storage and Handling of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals.
- **AS 1940:** The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids

Codes of Practice

- WorkCover NSW Code of Practice: Safe Use of Pesticides Including Herbicides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces
- WorkCover NSW Code of Practice: Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace
- WorkCover NSW Code of Practice: Labelling of Workplace Hazardous Chemicals
- WorkCover NSW Code of Practice: Safe Use and Storage of Chemicals (Including Pesticides and Herbicides) in Agriculture

Ballina Shire Council Procedures/ Policies

- Pesticide Use Notification Plan
- Chemical Procurement Procedure

REVIEW OF POLICY

The Pesticide Use Policy will be reviewed every four years.