

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Pesticide Use Notification Plan



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1. Introduction

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation). It describes how Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) will notify the community of certain pesticide applications that it makes in outdoor public places at Sydney Olympic Park, thus enabling members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they wish.

Pesticides are used at Sydney Olympic Park to control weeds, pests, and diseases. This helps us to conserve native flora and fauna and ensures public places can continue to be enjoyed by the community. Pest management programs generally focus on prevention followed by early control of new infestations. An integrated best-practice approach is applied to ensure pesticides are used only when necessary.

Matters considered in developing and conducting pest management programs include:

- maintaining landscape health and integrity to minimise pest, weed or disease outbreaks
- use of biosecurity and hygiene practices to prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases to the Park, and/or their spread within the Park
- the need to reduce the impacts of pest or disease outbreaks
- selecting the lowest toxicity pesticide suited to the task
- opportunities for integrated control methods
- availability of biological or non-chemical treatments
- visitor amenity and visitor safety
- workplace health and safety
- welfare issues of pest animal control
- environmental protection (particularly waterways), and ecological implications for co-occurring species and communities
- long-term sustainable management strategies
- legislative obligations for pest control and for pesticide use and management.

2. Public Places covered by this Plan

This Plan applies to all outdoor lands owned, controlled, or managed by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority that have public access and to which pesticides may be applied by or on behalf of SOPA.

Table 1 identifies the various place categories within Sydney Olympic Park, and the user groups, level of use, pesticides used, and pesticide use notification arrangements for each.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

3. Special measures for sensitive places

The Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school, pre-school, kindergarten, or childcare centre
- hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- or any other place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the NSW Government Gazette. Universities have been declared a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority.

For pesticide use within 20 metres of these sensitive places, SOPA will provide prior or concurrent notice by phone, email, or doorknocking as practical (with the exception of those situations described in Section 6, and where universities occupy multi-storey commercial buildings with no outdoor public open space managed by SOPA).

Notification in accordance with clause 48 of the Regulation will be provided at least 5 working days prior to conducting fumigation or pest management technician work with 20 metres of a sensitive place.

4. Notification of emergency pesticide notifications

In situations where emergency pesticide applications are required (for example where biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents pose an immediate health hazard), where possible the public will be excluded from the area to be treated and signage displayed for the duration of any specified exclusion period or until treatment is completed (with the exception of those situations described in Section 6).

5. Pesticide contractors and lessees

Compliance with this Plan will be a contractual requirement for relevant SOPA contractors and lessees.

6. Public places and sensitive uses where SOPA will not provide any notification

SOPA will not provide notification in the following situations:

1. Treatment of public places that are remote from public pathways and facilities, or where public access is excluded e.g., bushland and wetland areas.
2. Treatment of public places over which persons or organisations hold a lease over Sydney Olympic Park Authority land; for these places, the lessee will be required to carry out notification as per this Plan.
3. Treatment of public places that are temporarily closed to the public for purposes unrelated to pesticide application.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

4. Domestic-like use as identified in the Regulation, i.e., the pesticide is widely available to the general public at retail outlets, is ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening), is applied outdoors by hand or hand-held applicator and no more than 20 litres or 20 kilograms of "ready-to-use" product or 5 litres or 5 kilograms of concentrated product is being used.
5. Herbicide application by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques.
6. Minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols.
7. Use of rodenticides in bait stations or enclosed spaces such as electrical consoles.
8. Treatment of water features for algae and bacteria control.
9. Application of pesticides via sub-surface irrigation systems.

7. What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the Regulation, the following information will be available on notification signs or by contacting the phone number listed on the signs:

- full product name of the pesticide to be used
- purpose for which the pesticide is to be used
- the proposed date or date range during which the pesticide is to be used
- places where the pesticide is to be used
- any warnings regarding re-entry to the place of application that are specified on the product label or the permit for use
- SOPA phone and email contact details to obtain further information about the pesticide application

8. How the community will be informed of this Plan

The Plan will be available on the website of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority, and available for inspection at the Authority's head office. Questions about the Plan can be directed to the SOPA Environment Team, and copies of the Plan may be accessed via the contact options:

- Web:- www.sydneyolympicpark.nsw.gov.au/about-us/resource-centre
- Phone:- 02 9714 7300
- Email:- Enquiries@sopa.nsw.gov.au
- In person:- Level 8, 5 Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park, 2127 during business hours

9. Future reviews of this Plan

Unless there is a need for an earlier review, this notification plan will be reviewed after 5 years. Public consultation on any proposed changes will be undertaken in accordance with requirements of the Regulation.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Table 1: Pesticide use and notification arrangements

Public place category	Regular user groups and level of use	Level of use	Type of pesticide used	Notification arrangements
<p>Parks Town Centre and Parklands open spaces including picnic grounds, lawns, dog exercise areas; aquatic centre leisure gardens</p>	<p>Recreational users, employees, and contractors Low to very high level of use; use is variable with season and time of day</p>	<p>Low to very high; variable with season and time of day</p>	<p>Pesticide alternatives (e.g., essential oils) Spot-spraying of non-selective herbicides Rodenticides Situations where Section 6 of this Plan applies</p> <hr/> <p>Broad-scale selective herbicides Insecticides Fungicides</p>	<p>Notification via this Plan only</p> <hr/> <p>Treatments will be scheduled to avoid peak visitation times where feasible, and the treatment area will be closed to public access during pesticide application. Signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the treatment area at all major access points. Signage will be installed prior to pesticide application and left in place for any prescribed exclusion period and at least until the end of day. A forward schedule of programmed turf treatments will be maintained on the SOPA website (unprogrammed turf treatments will be posted where feasible) Email and/or phone notification will be provided to persons with a booking for a hireable space where the booking commences within 24 hours of pesticide application to the hireable space.</p>

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Public place category	Regular user groups and level of use	Level of use	Type of pesticide used	Notification arrangements
Parklands pathways and walking trails	Recreational users, employees, and contractors Low to medium level of use, typically of short duration; use is variable with season and time of day		Spot-use of herbicides	Notification via this Plan only
Playgrounds	Children, employees, contractors Low to very high level of use; use is variable with season and time of day	Low to very high level of use; use is variable with season and time of day	Hand-held aerosol insecticide Pesticide alternatives (e.g., essential oils)	Notification via this Plan only
			Spot-spraying of non-selective herbicides, insecticides.	Playgrounds will be closed to use prior pesticide treatment. Signs will be placed at the major entrances immediately prior to closure and will remain in place at least until the facility is re-opened for public use, after any prescribed exclusion period and at least until end of day.
Roads, footpaths, cycleways, nature strips, medium strips, garden beds	General public, dog walkers	Low to very high use typically of short duration; use variable with location, time of day and event scheduling	Spot-spraying of non-selective herbicides Rodenticides Situations where Section 6 of this Plan applies	Notification via this Plan only
			Broadscale selective herbicides Insecticides Fungicides	A forward schedule of programmed turf treatments will be maintained on the SOPA website (unprogrammed treatments will be posted where feasible) Signs will be placed before and after the area being treated. Signage will remain in place until sprayed foliage has dried and for any prescribed exclusion period.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Public place category	Regular user groups and level of use	Level of use	Type of pesticide used	Notification arrangements
Sporting Fields <i>(gated access to booked users & lessees)</i>	Booked user groups, employees, contractors	High	Spot-spraying of non-selective herbicides Rodenticides Situations where Section 6 of this Plan applies	Notification via this Plan only
			Broadscale selective herbicides Insecticides Fungicides	Treatments will be scheduled on days that the fields are not booked and there is no public access. Fields will remain closed on the day of application including any prescribed exclusion period. Email notification will be provided at least 24 hours in advance of treatments to lessees and to persons with a booking on the day following application.
Sporting fields <i>(unfenced)</i>	Casual users, booked user groups, licensees, employees, contractors	Low-moderate	Spot-spraying of non-selective herbicides Rodenticides Situations where Section 6 of this Plan applies	Notification via this Plan only
			Broadscale selective herbicides Insecticides Fungicides	A forward schedule of programmed turf treatments will be maintained on the SOPA website. Treatments will be scheduled on days that fields are not booked. Fields will remain closed on the day of application including any prescribed exclusion period. Email notification will be provided at least 24 hours in advance of treatments to licensees and to persons with a booking on the day following application. Signs will be placed at the major entrances to the sports field immediately prior to closure and will remain in place at least until the facility is re-opened for public use, after any prescribed exclusion period and at least until end of day.

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Public place category	Regular user groups and level of use	Level of use	Type of pesticide used	Notification arrangements
Bushland, grassland, and wetland areas	Employees, contractors, guided tours	Very Low	Paint application and spot spraying of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides Rodent baits Fox fumigants Feral honeybee hive fumigants	<p>Pesticide use is uncommon, and treatments typically fall within the situations described in Section 6, where no additional notification will be provided.</p> <p>Where Section 6 does not apply, signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the treatment area at all major access points. Signage will be installed prior to pesticide application and left in place until foliage has dried and for any prescribed exclusion period and at least until the end of day.</p>
Estuarine wetlands and adjacent lands	Employees, contractors, guided tours	Very low	Biological mosquito larvicide	<p>Ground-based mosquito treatments are undertaken in remote areas and fall within the situations described in Section 6, where no additional notification will be provided.</p> <p>Aerial mosquito treatments of Newington Nature Reserve wetland may be undertaken by helicopter or drone. The aerial treatment area is fenced and is not open to public access. Notification is provided to users of adjacent parkland areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed notification signage will be installed on public pathways around the perimeter of Newington Nature Reserve wetland during the season that treatments may be undertaken (typically October to March). • Email notification will be provided to identified stakeholders and interested parties 24 hours in advance of scheduled treatments where practicable. Any person may request inclusion on this email notification list. • Information about the mosquito management program will be provided on SOPA's website. <p>The notification and consent provisions of Pesticide Control Order (AIR-1) do not apply as the treatment area is greater than 150 metres from adjacent landholdings.</p>

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Public place category	Regular user groups and level of use	Level of use	Type of pesticide used	Notification arrangements
Other areas	General public, education groups, employees, and contractors	Low to very high; variable with location, season, and time of day	Broad-scale and spot-use of herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides Rodent baits	<p>Where Section 6 of this Plan applies, notification will be provided via this Plan only.</p> <p>In other circumstances signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the treatment area at all major access points. Signage will be installed prior to pesticide application and left in place until foliage has dried and for any prescribed exclusion period.</p>

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

April 2024

Policy metadata

Table 1. Policy metadata

Category	Description
Status	Final
Date of approval	22 April 2024
Approver	Chief Executive Officer
Group	Property Development and Valuation
Division	Sydney Olympic Park Authority
Policy owner	Manager Environment & Ecology
Branch	Urban Renewal & Environment
Document location	SOPA Internet
Next review date	2029
Associated procedure	Pesticides use and record-keeping
Any additional applicability	nil
Superseded document	SOPA Pesticide Use Notification Plan version 3.4; 2024 consultation draft version 4.0
Further information	Enquiries@sopa.nsw.gov.au
Document Reference	PRO24/10

Version control

Table 2. Version Control

Version	Date issued	Change
1,2	2007	Initial Plan for public consultation
3	2010	Plan revision with public exhibition
3.1-3.4	2010-2023	Minor updates
4.0	2024	Plan revision - consultation draft
5.0	2024	2024 revised and approved Plan