

DRAFT

**PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION  
PLAN**

**SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK  
AUTHORITY**

## PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 1995 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how the Sydney Olympic Park Authority will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls.

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority (the Authority). The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. The Authority ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how the Authority will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by the Authority to public places.

The plan describes:

- what 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 Authority will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places (i.e. what notification arrangements will be used);
- how the community can access this plan and get more information about the Authority's notification arrangements;
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with the Authority.

This plan forms a component of the Authority's integrated pest management policy.

## 2. PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority (SOPA) is committed to ecologically sustainable development and best practice with regard to pest management. Central to this commitment is the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPMS), where maximum effort is placed on the use of biological and cultural controls and with minimal use of pesticides. IPMS enables the most appropriate controls to be considered and implemented so that there is less dependence on the use of pesticides.

In delivering this policy the Authority is committed to:

- Reducing the impact of existing and potential pest fauna and plant disease problems.
- Fostering practices that assist the natural control of pests and diseases, protect the environment (particularly water systems) and enhance biodiversity.
- Implementing practices and procedures that minimise the development of conditions which could result in the outbreak of pests and diseases.
- Ensuring that the quality of plantings is maintained at an optimum level to maximise the natural resistance of plants to pests and diseases.
- Ensuring that all plant material brought onto site is free of pests and diseases.
- Relying on effective non-chemical control, where practical, cost effective and achievable.
- Investigating alternative methods of control that have minimal adverse environmental impacts.
- Selecting the lowest toxicity pesticide to minimise environmental impact, where use is deemed necessary.
- Ensuring the safety of the public, the user, and other staff whenever pest management practices are used.
- Liaising with other agencies, industry and research organisations to ensure up-to-date practices are introduced.

In carrying out pest management, the Authority will meet the principles of its *'Environmental Sustainability Guidelines'* and comply with all the relevant planning, environmental and occupational health, safety and rehabilitation legislation and guidelines.

### 3. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns and controls within the Park.

- Open Space Recreation Areas of the Parklands and the Public Domain areas of the Sydney Olympic Park Township, including the State Sports Centre.
- Playground areas
- Picnic Shelter and Barbeque areas
- Public sporting fields owned or operated by the Authority including Haslams Field and Archery Park
- Road verges and median strips.
- Pathways and Cycleways.
- Newington Nature Reserve (land owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the care and control of the Authority)

**Interior of Public Buildings** Although not required by the Regulation, this notification plan will also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following Sydney Olympic Park Authority buildings.

- Sydney Olympic Park Railway Station
- Public Amenities Blocks
- Sydney Olympic Park Visitors Centre
- Sydney Olympic Park Sports Halls
- Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre
- Sydney Olympic Park Hockey Centre
- Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic and Athletics Centres
- Multi Storey Car Parks (P1 and P3)
- Public Buildings in the Newington Armory.
- Bicentennial Park Field Studies Centre

**The Plan does not cover** sites within Sydney Olympic Park that are privately owned. However, venue operators who hold long-term leases with the Authority such as Telstra Stadium, Sydney Showground, Acer Arena, Golf Driving Range and Tennis Centre, have been provided with a copy of this plan and have been asked to carry out public notification consistent with the Authority's plan. The Sydney Olympic Park Authority will not be providing notification in these leased areas. Notification will be provided by each of the venue operators.

The Authority's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in Table 1.

<b>Table 1 - Community Use of Public Places at Sydney Olympic Park</b>			
<b>Public places</b>	<b>Regular user groups</b>	<b>Level of use of public place</b>	<b>Type of pesticide use</b>
<b>Parklands Open space and Public Domain in SOP Township</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> <li>• Event crowds</li> <li>• School groups</li> <li>• Tourists</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>Playground Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> <li>• Young children</li> </ul>	Medium - High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> </ul> <p>(note all playground areas at SOP have "softfall" and sand bases. Spot herbicide insecticides are rarely used.)</p>
<b>Picnic Shelter and Barbeque Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> </ul>	Medium - High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> <li>• Bait rodenticides (these are placed inside the locked BBQ housings and are not accessible to public)</li> </ul>
<b>Public Sporting Fields/ Aquatic Centre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting groups</li> <li>• Recreational Park Users</li> <li>• Event crowds</li> <li>• School Groups</li> <li>• Elite Athletes</li> </ul>	High to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>Road verges and median strips.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> </ul>	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> <li>• Broadscale selective herbicides</li> </ul>

<b>Public places</b>	<b>Regular user groups</b>	<b>Level of use of public place</b>	<b>Type of pesticide use</b>
<b>Pathways and Cycleways.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>Newington Nature Reserve</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escorted special interest groups</li> </ul>	Very Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bio-rational mosquito control (aerial and hand spraying)</li> <li>• Spot herbicides</li> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> </ul>
<b>Interiors of public buildings (listed in Section 2 above)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recreational park users</li> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• Sporting Groups</li> <li>• Public Transport Commuters</li> <li>• Elite Athletes</li> </ul>	Medium to High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot Insecticides</li> <li>• Spray insecticides for ant, termite, cockroach and spider control</li> <li>• Bait rodenticides</li> </ul>

#### **4. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

This section of the plan describes how and when the Sydney Olympic Park Authority will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on the Authority's assessment on:

- the level of usage of public places where pesticides may be used;
- the extent to which members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) and 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; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground); and
- type of pesticide used.

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

### ***All Public Places Listed In Table 1***

Sydney Olympic Park is a regional Park attracting local, national and international visitors.

Where feasible, areas of the Park being treated will be closed to public access during pesticide application to reduce the chance of the public coming into contact with the pesticide.

Clearly visible signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated with pesticides just prior to their application and removed after pesticide application has ceased. Where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of exclusion, this will be followed.

### **Aerial Mosquito Treatment – Newington Nature Reserve**

Aerial mosquito spraying of the Newington Nature Reserve and hand based spraying of a small area of Bicentennial Park occurs up to five times per year between November and March. The mosquito control product contains the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) which is safe to people, pets other fauna and the environment.

Bti can only be applied during the second and third instar growth stages of a mosquito larva otherwise it is ineffective. Spraying only takes place after receiving advice from the University of Sydney's Department of Medical Entomology, which undertakes weekly monitoring of the wetlands for mosquito larval numbers, growth stages and tide levels. Generally, the Authority receives only 1 – 2 days prior notice that spraying is required. Spraying outside this period is ineffective.

As the Authority is not in a position to provide more than 1- 2 days prior notice that spraying is to occur, access gates to the areas to be aeri ally sprayed will be closed the night before spraying is to commence. Signs will be placed on the access gates advising why the area is closed, re-opening times and advice on the product being sprayed. Additionally, the Authority will provide e-mail advice to any members of the public wishing to receive prior notification.

In Bicentennial Park, clearly visible signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated with pesticides just prior to their application and removed after pesticide application has ceased.

### **Public Sporting Fields**

- The main public sporting fields are located at the Athletics Centre and Warm Up Track. Broad scale selective herbicides and pesticides are only applied during times when these centres are closed to public access. Should there be an urgent need to treat for pests, signage will be placed in a prominent position advising that spraying is occurring and the public will be cleared before, during and immediately after spraying has ceased.
- A smaller community field known as Haslams Field is located adjacent to the Newington Public School. Notification will be as stated in the Sensitive Places Section below.

### ***Interiors of public buildings (optional)***

- For interiors of buildings controlled by the Sydney Olympic Park Authority spraying will only take place out of hours when the public cannot access the building unless there is an urgent need for spraying. If this occurs, signage will be placed in a prominent position that spraying is occurring and the public will be cleared before during and immediately after spraying has ceased.
- All bait rodenticides will be in lockable bait stations that do not allow the public to come into direct contact with the pesticide.
- At the Aquatic Centre, Athletic Centre, Sports Centre, Hockey Centre and Sports Halls all baits rodenticides are located in non-public areas.

### ***Special 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.

The only sensitive place in the immediate vicinity of Sydney Olympic Park is Newington Public School. However, the Field Studies Centre also attracts a significant number of school excursion children from around the state so the following procedure will also apply to pesticide use within 100 metres of the Field Studies Centre.

Where feasible, pesticides will only be applied within 100 metres of Newington School and the Field Studies Centre on non-school attendance days (weekends, school holidays or on days when the Field Studies Centre is not in use). If this is not possible, Newington School will receive an e-mail or fax at least 2 days prior to pesticides being applied within 100 metres of the school boundary and Haslams field which is regularly used by school students.

### ***Notification of emergency pesticide applications***

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places 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), where possible the public will be excluded from the area to be treated until the operation has ceased. Where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of exclusion, this will be followed.

Clearly visible signs will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated with pesticides just prior to their application and after pesticide application has ceased. Where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of notification, this will be followed.

### ***Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places***

Contractors: Where the Sydney Olympic Park Authority uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, contractors will be required to adhere to the notification requirements of this plan. Future contracts will include clauses requiring notification as per this plan.

Lessees: Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Sydney Olympic Park Authority land that remains a public place such as Telstra Stadium, Sydney Showground, Acer Arena, Golf Driving Range and Tennis Centre, the operators will be provided with the Authority's plan and requested to carry out public notification consistent with this plan. The Sydney Olympic Park Authority will not be providing notification in these leased areas. Notification will be provided by each of the venue operators.

### ***Public places where no notice will be provided***

The Authority will not be providing notification in any of the public places it controls or owns when it uses minor quantities of pesticides that are available to the general public at retail outlets. For example, the use of baits or spray aerosol cans for minor control of indoor and outdoor pests.

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

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the Pesticides Regulation, notices of pesticide use will include the following information:

- the 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;
- contact telephone number and email address of a SOPA 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<sup>1</sup> permit.

## **6. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN**

The Sydney Olympic Park Authority will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- placing an advertisement in the local newspapers notifying residents that the draft plan is available for public comment;
- making a copy of the plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office at 7 Figtree Drive Sydney Olympic Park; and
- placing a copy of the plan on its website.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN**

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 progress of implementing the plan
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan
- recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

Anyone wishing to contact the Sydney Olympic Park Authority to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Manager Environment  
Sydney Olympic Park Authority  
7 Figtree Drive  
Sydney Olympic Park  
Ph: 9714 7930  
e-mail: [con.lambous@sopa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:con.lambous@sopa.nsw.gov.au)

or access the Authority's website [www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au](http://www.sydneyolympicpark.com.au)