

Sydney Trains Pesticide Use Notification Plan



Transport
Sydney Trains

Document History

Title	Pesticides Use Notification Plan		
Number	EMS-09-WI-0075		
Version	Author	Issued	Description
3.0	P Semple	July 2013	First document issue for Sydney Trains
3.1	L Durrington	December 2015	Changes to; public places covered by the plan, information to be provided in notifications and contact details.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation). The plan sets out how Sydney Trains will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to outdoor public places that it controls or maintains on behalf of another public authority.

This plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Sydney Trains ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for the management of vegetation, insecticides and fungicides for infrastructure maintenance and insecticides and rodenticides to address public health issues.

Further information on Sydney Trains pesticide usage can be obtained by contacting the Environment Specialist at SydneyTrainsEnviro@Transport.nsw.gov.au

2 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Sydney Trains proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in public outdoor places that it controls or maintains on behalf of another public authority. Sydney Trains controls or maintains the following public transport infrastructure:

- the rail network and stations shown on the Sydney Trains Network Map in Appendix 1;
- intercity railway lines to Hamilton in the north, Bombaderry in the south and Bowenfels to the west (Appendix 1);
- intercity stations shown in Appendix 1;
- and regional stations listed in Appendix 2.

Areas of land where pesticides could be used by Sydney Trains and are deemed a public place as defined by the Regulation will be covered by this plan and include:

- Publicly accessible areas that are likely to have exposure to a high number of people, and where these people have potential to be exposed to pesticides because the public could have reasonable exposure times to pesticides, if used. These areas include railway stations and associated areas such as gardens, car parks and transport interchange areas. Notification will be undertaken in these areas.
- Other public areas that are deemed unlikely to have exposure to pesticides will have no notification.

Areas **not** covered by this plan because they are not considered public places and where **no** notification of pesticide use will be made include;

- Sydney Trains offices, depots, training colleges and other facilities and beautification leases to neighbours where the general public does not normally have access.
- The operational Sydney Trains rail corridors (which are excluded from public access and where it is illegal for the public to be).
- Non-operational lands leased to private persons or organisations for private or business purposes.

Sydney Trains have estimated the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide used for all areas of land controlled or maintained by Sydney Trains and the potential for exposure has been determined in areas deemed as public places. This has been done by evaluating the accessibility of the site and the extent to which activities undertaken by the public has the potential to result in contact with the pesticides applied.

The results are outlined in table 1.

Table 1. Sydney Trains estimate of the level of public use, regular users, pesticides used and potential for public exposure

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place,	Extent that public activities likely to involve direct contact	Potential of public exposure	Potential type of pesticide use
Railway stations and station precincts	The general public who are rail passengers including adults, children and the elderly.	High	Potentially High, as public may be waiting on the site for a period and may be sitting on and leaning against structures and the ground	High – Notification required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides
Public right of ways not associated with railway stations. Eg. Pedestrian underpasses	The general public.	Medium to High	Low, as public only passing through quickly	Low to medium– Notification <u>not</u> required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides
Unsecured sites not leased (non-operational)	Employees, contractors and trespassers	Low	Low to medium, as illegal trespasses unlikely to be there for extended periods	Low – Notification <u>not</u> required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides • Large vertebrate baiting

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place,	Extent that public activities likely to involve direct contact	Potential of public exposure	Potential type of pesticide use
Off-corridor lands, such as unfenced electrical easements and disused rail corridors	General members of the public potentially can access these areas.	Low to High	Low, as the public would normally be just moving through the areas and pesticide use is generally low	Low to medium – Notification <u>not</u> required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides • Large vertebrate baiting
Training colleges and offices	Employees, contractors, and potential contractors	Low	Low	Low – Notification <u>not</u> required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides
Beautification leases on operational corridor	Employee, contractors and lessee	Low	Low to Medium	Low – Notification <u>not</u> required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides or insecticides • Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides • Broadscale insecticides • Fungicides • Spray termiticides • Spray ant control • Bait termiticides, • Bait bird control • Rodenticides • Large vertebrate baiting

3 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

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

These notification requirements are based on Sydney Trains assessment of:

- The level of usage of public places where pesticides are to be used.
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides.

3.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Sydney Trains uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). Sydney Trains does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide application other than by way of this description in this plan. This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans.

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories controlled or maintained by Sydney Trains and identified in table 1, above, as requiring notification.

3.2 Stations and station precincts

In these public places, signs[#] will be placed to notify the general community as they enter station precincts (from public areas) at least 48 hours prior to the application of pesticides (except for those situations described in 3.3) and remain for at least 48 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses;

- Spot herbicides or insecticides
- Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides
- Fungicides
- Spray termiticides
- Spray ant control
- Bait termiticides, (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- Spray ant control
- Bait bird control, (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- Rodenticides, (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in these areas, Sydney Trains will organise signs to be erected prior to application and will leave them in place for at least 48 hours after application.

[#] Signs erected by Sydney Trains may be subject to removal or vandalism by other parties. While Sydney Trains will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations

3.3 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 18 of the *Pesticides Regulation* defines a sensitive place to be any:

- school or pre-school
- kindergarten
- childcare centre
- hospital
- community health centre
- nursing home; or
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (Office of Environment and Heritage) by notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

Special notification measures for programmed pesticide use by Sydney Trains in public places adjacent to the above listed sensitive places will consist of direct communication with the sensitive site occupier prior to the application for following pesticide uses:

- Broadscale selective or non-selective herbicides
- Broadscale insecticides and Fungicides
- Spray termiticides
- Spray ant control

Note for a sensitive site to be considered to be adjacent that site must share a common boundary with the site where application is to occur and be within 100 metres of where pesticides are to be applied.

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor places next to sensitive places, Sydney Trains will provide notice prior to application to the occupier by phone, door-knock, letter or letterbox drop, depending on what is the most practicable method.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor area that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Sydney Trains will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before, so that people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a dangerous pest infestation.

Although not required by the Regulation, the above notification arrangements will be expanded voluntarily to include pesticide application on other land controlled or maintained by Sydney Trains not considered public places adjacent to the above listed sensitive places in keeping with the spirit of the legislation.

3.4 Emergency Pesticide Application

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), Sydney Trains will, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby areas listed in 3.2 and 3.3 at the time of the application.

3.5 Pesticide contractors

Where Sydney Trains uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Sydney Trains will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan.

3.6 Adjoining public lands

In public areas where multiple agencies have responsibility for land management (pesticide application) on their land, and where there are no physically defined boundaries, the agency undertaking the pesticide application will follow their own Pesticide Notification Plan. This will include incidental applications in areas that are controlled by other agencies.

3.7 Pesticide application by another government agency

Where another government department or agency is contracted to undertake pesticide application by Sydney Trains, all notification will be in accordance with Sydney Trains' Pesticide Application Plan, unless special arrangements are made to undertake notification according to the contract agencies Pesticide Notification Plan.

3.8 Public places where no notice will be provided

Based on the assessment of potential for exposure to pesticide application to the public outlined in table 1, in the following public areas, **no** notification of pesticide use will be made;

- Public right of ways not associated with railway station, such as pedestrian underpasses.
- Secured and unsecured non-operational lands not leased out.
- Off- corridor lands, such as unfenced electrical easements and disused rail corridors.

4 WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Pesticides Regulation, notice of pesticides uses will include the following information:

- the full product name of the pesticide to be used,
- the purpose for which the pesticide is to be used,
- the dates on which, or the range of dates during which, the pesticide is to be used,
- the places where the pesticide is to be used,
- any warnings about limitations on the subsequent use of or entry onto the land if such warnings are specified on the approved label for the pesticide or in the permit for use of the pesticide,
- a contact telephone number or email address for the officer of the public authority whom the affected persons can contact to discuss the notice.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

5 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Sydney Trains will advise the public of this revised plan and its contents by:

- placing a copy of the plan on the Sydney Trains corporate website
<http://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/sydneytrains/>
- placing a notice in The Sydney Morning Herald

6 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every five (5) years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will include:

- a review of the plans application,
- public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan,
- recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

7 CONTACT DETAILS

Any queries regarding this plan may be directed to:

Group Manager Environment
SEQR Directorate
Sydney Trains
PO Box K349 HAYMARKET
NSW 1238
SydneyTrainsEnviro@Transport.nsw.gov.au

APPENDIX 1: MAPS OF SYDNEY METROPOLITAN AND INTERCITY RAILWAY STATIONS



The map illustrates the extensive Sydney Trains Network, connecting various regions around the city. Key lines and stations include:

- Hunter Line:** Extends from the north, passing through stations like Scone, Alford, and Muswellbrook.
- Central Coast & Newcastle Line:** Connects the central coast and Newcastle, with stations like Broadmeadow, Adamstown, and Cardiff.
- Blue Mountains Line:** Travels west from Sydney, passing through stations like Parramatta, Blacktown, and Penrith.
- Southern Highlands Line:** Connects Sydney to the southern highlands, with stations like Campbelltown, Macarthur, and Menangle.
- South Coast Line:** Extends south from Sydney, passing through stations like Wollongong, Shellharbour, and Kiama.

The map also shows the Hawkesbury River, Lake Macquarie, and the Blue Mountains. Major stations like Sydney Central, Parramatta, and Campbelltown are highlighted as key hubs. The map is a comprehensive overview of the rail network, showing the connections between different parts of the Sydney region and beyond.

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF NSW REGIONAL RAILWAY STATIONS

North Region	North Region	South	West Region
Byron Bay	Eungai	Tarago	Tarana
Casino	Gloucester	Bungendore	Rydal
Coffs Harbour	Kendall	Queanbeyan	Stewart Town
Grafton	Kyogle	Gunning	Geurie
Kempsey	Mullumbimby	Harden	Condoblin
Lismore	Sawtell	The Rock	Euabalong West
Macksville	Urunga	Henty	Ivanhoe
Murwillumbah	Wingham	Culcairn	Darnick
Nambucca Heads	Boggabri	Coolamon	Menindee
Taree	Kootingal	Narranderra	Blayney
Wauchope	Moree	Leeton	Orange
Armidale	Murrurundi	Yanco	Wellington
Gunnedah	Quirindi	Yass Junction	Dubbo
Narrabri	Bellata	Cootamundra	Parkes
Tamworth	Walcha Road	Junee	Broken Hill
	Uralla	Griffith	
	Willow Tree	Wagga Wagga	