

Transport
for NSW

Pesticide use notification plan

November 2022



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Acknowledgement of Country

Transport for NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present and celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of NSW.

Many of the transport routes we use today – from rail lines, to roads, to water crossings – follow the traditional Songlines, trade routes and ceremonial paths in Country that our nation’s First Peoples followed for tens of thousands of years.

Transport for NSW is committed to honouring Aboriginal peoples’ cultural and spiritual connections to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.



Document control

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Superseded documents	RMS Pesticide use notification Plan Sydney Trains Pesticide use notification Plan

Versions

Version	Date	Amendment notes
1.0	Jan 2007	(Former RMS plan) First issue
2.0	Jan 2016	(Former RMS plan) General revision
3.0	Nov 2022	Transport for NSW rebranding, revised scope and notification arrangements

Related policy and supporting information



[Transport Environment and Sustainability Policy](#)

[Environment & Sustainability Management Framework](#)

Table of contents

1.	Introduction	5
2.	Purpose and scope.....	5
3.	Public places covered by this Plan	5
4.	Notification arrangements.....	6
4.1	How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided	10
5.	Review amendments to this Plan.....	12
6.	Contact details and further information.....	12
	Appendix A: NSW regional railway stations.....	13

1. Introduction

Transport for NSW leads the development of safe, integrated and efficient transport systems for the people of NSW. Our customers are at the centre of everything that we do, including transport planning, strategy, policy, procurement and other non-service delivery functions across all modes of transport - roads, rail, ferries, light rail. Transport for NSW uses pesticides where necessary to control weeds and pest animals, protect public property from pest damage, and protect the use of public places from nuisance or danger.

This pesticide use notification plan (the Plan) describes:

- public places covered by the Plan
- who regularly uses these public places and an estimated level of use
- how and when Transport for NSW 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 Transport for NSW notification arrangements
- contact details for further information if required.

2. Purpose and scope

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the [Pesticides Regulation 2017](#) (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how Transport for NSW, our agencies and our contractors will notify the community of the application of pesticides in public places that are controlled or maintained by or on behalf of Transport for NSW. The following agencies and operating entities are covered by this Plan:

- Transport for NSW
- Sydney Trains
- NSW Trains
- Sydney Light Rail and Newcastle Light Rail
- Other public transport service operations such as busses and ferries.

Sydney Metro and the Transport Asset Holding Entity (TAHE) are not subject to this Plan.

Contractors and private operators within the transport network who apply pesticides to public lands may operate under this Plan. Where contractors or operators do not operate under this plan, a separate pesticide use notification plan must be prepared and implemented in accordance with the [Pesticides Regulation 2017](#).

3. Public places covered by this Plan

Transport for NSW and the agencies covered by this Plan proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following public places that it controls or are maintained on its behalf:

- Sydney and intercity railway network and station precincts
- Regional stations listed in Appendix A
- light rail networks and stations
- Transport for NSW owned and operated car parks, gardens and transport interchange areas
- urban and rural roadsides (including but not limited to freeways, controlled access roads, median strips, roadsides, roundabouts, traffic islands, cycleways and footpaths, stockpile sites)
- roadside rest areas (including picnic/BBQ areas, toilets and playgrounds)
- administrative sites

- heavy vehicle safety stations
- rider/driver training facilities operated by Transport for NSW
- bridges
- passenger and vehicular ferries, and associated infrastructure such as wharves

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

- Transport for NSW owned lands with restricted access or public access prohibited
- offices, depots, training colleges and other facilities where the general public does not normally have access
- operational rail corridors as public access is prohibited
- non-operational lands leased to private persons or organisations for private or business purposes.

4. Notification arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when Transport for NSW will provide public notice of the proposed use of pesticides 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.

Notification requirements are based on Transport for NSW 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.

Assessment was conducted by evaluating accessibility of the site and the extent to which activities undertaken by the public have the potential to result in contact with pesticides applied. The results are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1

Public Place	Regular User Group	Level of use of public place	Extent of public activities likely to involve direct contact	Potential of public exposure	Notification required	Type of pesticide use	Application method
Railway stations and station precincts	- Public transport passengers - Employees - Contractors	High	Potentially high, as public may be waiting on the site for a period and may be sitting on or leaning against structures and the ground	High	Yes	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations
Public right of ways not associated with railway stations e.g., overpasses or underpasses	- General public	Medium to high	Low, as public only passing through and not stopping	Low to medium	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations
Railway crossings, including vehicular and pedestrian crossings	- General public	High	Low, as public only passing through and not stopping	Low to medium	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement
Light rail network	- Public transport passengers	High	Potentially high, as public may be waiting at a transit stop for a period and may be sitting on or leaning against structures and the ground	Medium to high	Yes	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations
Commuter carparks	- Public transport passengers	Medium to high	Medium, as public are generally only transiting through	Medium	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations

Public Place	Regular User Group	Level of use of public place	Extent of public activities likely to involve direct contact	Potential of public exposure	Notification required	Type of pesticide use	Application method
Roadsides including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • freeways • rural and urban roadsides • controlled access roads • median strips • road shoulders • roundabouts • traffic islands • roadside cycleways • footpaths • bridges and surrounds • traffic management devices • noise walls • stockpile sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motorists - Local residents - Recreational users e.g. cyclists - Employees - Contractors 	Low to High	Low to high Pedestrians, vehicle operators, passengers, cyclists, employees and contractors	Low to high	Yes	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement
Roadside rest areas including facilities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • picnic/BBQ areas • toilets • playgrounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motorists - Employees - Contractors 	High	High, sites operate 24 hours every day.	High	Yes	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement bait stations
Heavy vehicle safety stations, weigh stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavy vehicle operators - Employees - Contractors 	Low to high use depending on location	Low	Low	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement bait stations
Passenger and vehicular ferries, and associated infrastructure such as wharves, ramps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General public - Public transport passengers 	Medium to high	Medium, public may be waiting for periods at these locations.	Medium, limited treatment conducted at	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides,	Spray application, manual placement bait stations

Public Place	Regular User Group	Level of use of public place	Extent of public activities likely to involve direct contact	Potential of public exposure	Notification required	Type of pesticide use	Application method
	- Employees - Contractors			these public places		fungicides, vertebrate baits	
Off-corridor lands including unfenced electrical easements, disused road and rail corridors	- General public - Employees - Contractors	Low	Low, public can potentially access these areas	Low	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations
Unsecured sites not leased (non-operational)	- Employees - Contractors Trespassers	Low	Low to medium, as illegal trespassers unlikely to be there for extended periods	Low	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, boom spray equipment, manual placement, bait stations
Administrative sites including: • training facilities • offices customer service centres on Transport for NSW controlled property	- General public - Employees - Contractors	Low to medium	Medium	Medium	No	Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides, vertebrate baits	Spray application, manual placement, bait stations

4.1 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

The notification arrangements for public place categories, controlled or maintained by Transport for NSW, are identified in table 1 and described in the following sections.

4.1.1 Minor use

Notification will not be provided when small quantities of pesticides that are widely available to the general public in retail outlets and are ordinarily used for domestic purposes, are applied by hand in accordance with the product instructions. Small quantities are considered to be less than 20 litres of diluted product or 5 litres of concentrated product. An example of hand held application is using a spray wand and knapsack, or spray bottle.

4.1.2 Railway stations and station precincts (including light rail)

Signs¹ will be placed to notify members of the public as they enter station precincts (from public areas) at least 48 hours prior to the application of pesticides. Signs will include information specified in section 4.1.6 of this Plan 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)

4.1.3 Roadsides and rest areas

Roadsides

Portable signs or signs fixed to a work vehicle will be displayed in highly visible locations notifying that pesticide spraying is in progress and list a contact number for further information. Information as listed in Section 4.1.6 will be available from the nominated contact on the sign.

Signs will be displayed for the period that the spraying is in progress, unless the pesticide label requires a longer period.

Signs will be displayed for the first use of baits, if part of an ongoing program.

Rest areas

In addition to the signage outlined above for roadsides, a temporary sign will be affixed at a visible location at rest areas listing the dates pesticide was applied and a contact number for further information. Information as listed in Section 4.1.6 will be available from the nominated contact on the sign.

Temporary signs will be placed when spraying is in progress and may stay in place until the next round of treatment at that rest area.

¹ Signs erected by Transport for NSW or our entities may be subject to removal or vandalism by other parties. Whilst every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised is made, it cannot be guaranteed that this will occur in all situations.

4.1.4 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

Emergency pesticide applications may be required to deal with any of the following pests or weeds, which Transport for NSW considers may pose an immediate health or safety hazard:

- priority weeds (as defined in a local strategic weed plan)
- biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents.

In these circumstances, it may not be practicable for advance notification to be provided.

To notify members of the community of the application, signs will be in place immediately prior to pesticide use, and during the application of the pesticide.

4.1.5 Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 39 of the [Pesticides Regulation 2017](#) defines a 'sensitive place' to be any of the following:

- a school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre
- a hospital, community health centre or nursing home
- place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

This section describes notification methods for pesticides that are sprayed or injected into the ground in an outdoor public place, adjacent to a sensitive place (i.e. within 20 metres of a common boundary with a sensitive place, excluding hospitals).

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor places adjacent to sensitive places, Transport for NSW will provide notice to the occupier at least 5 working days prior to application by phone, door-knock, letter or letterbox drop, depending on the most practicable method.

Transport for NSW will directly communicate with the sensitive place if there is a need to apply:

- broad-scale selective or non-selective herbicides
- broad-scale insecticides and fungicides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control

If these methods are necessary to deal with an emergency in an outdoor area that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Transport for NSW will organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes prior, 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 Transport for NSW that is not considered to be a public place and is adjacent to the above listed sensitive places, in keeping with the spirit of the legislation.

4.1.6 Information to be provided

In accordance with clause 41(1)(h) of the 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.

5. Review amendments to this Plan

This Plan will be reviewed every five (5) years or when circumstances require a review of the Plan.

If updates are proposed, arrangements for public consultation and notification will be subject to clauses 42 and 43 of the Regulation.

Following consultation, a copy of the revised Plan will be available on the Transport for NSW website.

6. Contact details and further information

This Plan will be made available to view and download on the Transport for NSW website – <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/>

Further information on pesticide usage can be obtained from:

- The Transport for NSW website – <https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/>
- Or by contacting 131500
- Internal Transport users: [Biosecurity and pesticides \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Any queries regarding this Plan may be directed to:

- Director Planning, Policy & Assessment (Safety Environment & Regulation)
- Email: environmentandsustainability@transport.nsw.gov.au

Appendix A: NSW regional railway stations

Aberdeen	Grafton City	Nambucca Heads	Wauchope
Albury	Greta	Narrabri	Wellington
Armidale	Griffith	Narrandera Junction	Werris Creek Junction
Bargo	Gunnedah	Orange Junction	Willow Tree
Bathurst	Gunning	Parkes	Wingello
Bellata	Harden	Paterson	Wingham
Beresfield	Henty Junction	Penrose	Wirragulla
Blayney Junction	Hexham	Picton Junction	Yass Junction
Boggabri	High Street	Queanbeyan	Yerrinbool
Bowral	Hilldale	Quirindi	
Branxton	Ivanhoe	Rydal	
Broken Hill	June	Sandgate	
Bundanoon	Kempsey	Sawtell	
Bungandore	Kootingal	Scone	
Burradoo	Kyogle	Singleton	
Casino	Leeton	Stuart Town	
Coffs Harbour	Lochinvar	Tahmoor	
Condobolin	Macksville	Tallong	
Coolamon	Maitland Junction	Tarago	
Cootamundra Junction	Martins Creek	Tarana	
Culcairn Junction	Marulan	Taree	
Darnick	Menangle	Tarro	
Douglas Park	Menangle Park	Telarah	
Dubbo Junction	Menindee	The Rock Junction	
Dungog	Metford	Thornton	
East Maitland	Millthorpe	Uralla	
Euabalong West	Mindaribba	Urunga	
Eungai	Mittagong	Wagga Wagga Junction	
Exeter	Moree	Walcha Road	
Geurie	Moss Vale Junction	Wallarobba	
Gloucester	Murrurundi	Warabrook	
Goulburn	Muswellbrook	Waratah	



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