



# **PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN**

Published by:

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Plan prepared October 2006  
Reviewed July 2015

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared by Greater Taree City Council in accordance with the requirements of the 2009 Pesticides Regulation (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Council ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in accordance with the respective pesticide labels in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community and the environment.

The plan sets out how Council will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Council 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 Council 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 Council's notification arrangements
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with Council.

This plan forms a component of Council's integrated pest management policy. This policy states that Council only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate pests/weeds, to protect public property from damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

Further information on Council's pesticide use can be obtained by calling Greater Taree City Council on 6592 5399 or by visiting the website [www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au).

## 2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Council proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places within this Council's local government area:

- parks and public gardens
- playgrounds
- picnic areas
- sporting fields and ovals
- road verges and road reserves
- laneways and pathways
- easements accessible to the public
- drains.

This plan may also provide information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the interiors of the following council buildings: council chambers, libraries, community halls/centres and childcare facilities.

Council's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised in the following table. Although not required by the Regulation, a summary of the type of pesticide use in each category of public place may also be provided.

Public places owned or controlled by Council	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
<b>a) Public parks and gardens</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young families</li> <li>• elderly people</li> <li>• general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog- walkers, picnickers)</li> <li>• community groups</li> </ul>	<p>Very high (frequent use by multiple users, with short to medium length stays)</p> <p>All public gardens with a Facility Visitation Rating (FVR) higher than 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• spot insecticides</li> <li>• broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale insecticides</li> <li>• fungicide (usually garden beds)</li> <li>• spray termiticides, ant control</li> <li>• bait termiticides, ant control</li> <li>• bait bird control</li> </ul>
<b>b) Playgrounds and camping grounds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young families</li> <li>• elderly people</li> <li>• general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog- walkers, picnickers)</li> <li>• community groups</li> </ul>	Medium to high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• spot insecticides</li> <li>• spray ant control</li> </ul>

<b>Public places owned or controlled by Council</b>	<b>Regular user groups</b>	<b>Level of use of public place</b>	<b>Type of pesticide use</b>
<b>c) Picnic areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• children and young families</li> <li>• elderly people</li> <li>• general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers, picnickers)</li> <li>• community groups</li> </ul>	<p>High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)</p> <p>Picnic areas with a FVR higher than 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• spot insecticides</li> <li>• bait rodenticides</li> <li>• fungicide (usually on garden beds)</li> <li>• spray termiticides</li> <li>• spray ant control</li> </ul>
<b>d) Sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sporting clubs and associations</li> <li>• school sports groups</li> <li>• general recreational users (e.g. joggers, dog-walkers)</li> <li>• general public</li> </ul>	<p>High</p> <p>All sports fields with a FVR higher than 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• spot insecticides</li> <li>• broadscale selective herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale insecticides</li> <li>• spray or bait termiticides on facilities</li> <li>• rodenticides near facilities</li> </ul>
<b>e) Council laneways and pathways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local residents</li> <li>• people who work in the area</li> <li>• visitors to the area</li> <li>• general public</li> </ul>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
<b>f) Road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road</li> <li>• general public</li> </ul>	<p>Low for rural roads;</p> <p>Medium to high for urban roads</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
<b>g) Easements accessible to the public (specifically road, sewer or electricity)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local residents and people who work in the area</li> <li>• general public</li> </ul>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot herbicides</li> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> </ul>
<b>h) Council drains, detention ponds &amp; landfill areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local residents living adjacent to these areas;</li> <li>• local residents or visitors who visit, walk or drive past these areas.</li> <li>• general public</li> </ul>	<p>Low to medium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broadscale non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• spot herbicides</li> </ul>

<b>i) Interiors of certain Council buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• library users (including young children, school groups and the elderly)</li> <li>• young children and their carers (childcare facilities)</li> <li>• parents groups/playgroups</li> <li>• community associations</li> <li>• church groups</li> <li>• general members of the public</li> <li>• sporting groups</li> </ul>	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spot insecticides</li> <li>• bait rodenticides</li> <li>• spray termiticides</li> <li>• spray ant control</li> <li>• bait termiticides</li> <li>• bait ant control</li> <li>• bait bird control</li> </ul>
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### 3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Council may provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on Council's assessment of:

- 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)
- type of pesticide used.

Notice of pesticide use may be provided by one or more of the following:

- newspaper advertisement
- signs
- information on Council's website (which may describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places). Persons with organic status must provide Council with an organic certification certificate;
- letters
- fax and email
- letterbox drops
- door knocking
- phone contact.

Council may also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan. Persons who claim to be chemical sensitive must provide a doctor's certificate of proof.

Council uses small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). Council does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on Council's website). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand, hand-held or knapsack spray container.

#### **a) Outdoor recreation areas**

The notification arrangements described below may apply to the following public place categories owned or controlled by Council within the local government area (LGA):

- public parks and gardens (2a)
- playgrounds (2b)
- picnic areas (2c)
- sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities (2d)

In these public places, when pesticides are applied with **an oral LD50 (rat) of 50 or less** signs may be provided to the general community near the application area or main entrance prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- broadscale selective and non-selective herbicides
- broadscale insecticides
- fungicides (on the relevant garden beds)
- spray termiticides and ant control
- bait termiticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait bird control (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only)
- bait rodenticide (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places (see definition of 'sensitive places', under subsection d) (Special measures for sensitive places) the occupiers may be provided with 48 hours prior targeted notice by phone, mail or letterbox drop (whichever is most practicable).

For **sporting fields, ovals and related sporting facilities**, sporting groups and occupiers of adjacent sensitive places who register interest with Council can also have notice of the above pesticide uses emailed at least 24 hours prior to application.

**b) Outdoor public thoroughfares and certain easements accessible to the public**

The notification arrangements described below may apply to the following categories of public place owned or controlled by Council within the LGA:

- laneways and pathways (2e)
- road shoulders, verges, road reserves and footpaths (2f)
- road, sewer and electricity easements accessible to the public (2g)
- drains and wetlands (2h)
- detention ponds and landfill areas (2h)

In these public places, information on the forward program for broadscale herbicide may be posted on Council's website. For **drains** only, information on the forward program for use of herbicides will also be included in Council's regular box advertisements in local newspapers.

Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on outdoor public thoroughfares and the above easements, adjacent to sensitive places, and/or for parties who register interest with Council, prior notice will be provided 48 hours prior to application.

**c) Certain Council buildings (2i)**

For pesticide use in Council chambers, Council owned libraries, community halls and centres and childcare facilities that are owned or controlled by Council, signs may be provided near the application area or main entrance at least 24 hours prior to application and remain for at least 24 hours afterwards for the following pesticide uses:

- spot use of insecticides
- bait rodenticides
- spray termiticides
- spray ant control.
- bait termiticides
- bait ant control
- bait bird control.

In addition, 5 days prior notice of all programmed pesticide use in Council childcare facilities may be given to operators of the facilities.

**d) Special measures for sensitive places**

Clause 18 of the 2009 Pesticides Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- a) a school, pre-school, kindergarten or childcare centre,
- b) a hospital, community health centre or nursing home,
- c) any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by order published in the Gazette.

Where any pesticide uses occur adjacent to sensitive places, the occupiers may be provided with 24 hours prior targeted notice by phone, fax, mail or letterbox drop

(whichever Council deems as most practicable).

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places next to sensitive places, Council may provide concurrent notice to the occupier by phone, fax, e-mail, door-knock or letterbox drop, (shortly before use).

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in an outdoor public place that is adjacent to a sensitive place, Council may organise a door-knock in that sensitive place, preferably at least 30 minutes before hand. This will allow people to be aware that a pesticide is about to be used.

Persons and organisations who are sensitive to pesticides either for health reasons or because of organic status, may indicate to Council in writing, their need and reason to be included on a chemical sensitivity register. Each claim must be substantiated by a doctor's certificate outlining the specific chemicals they are sensitive to, or a copy of any organic and bio-dynamic certification issued by the Biological Farmers of Australia group.

#### **e) 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), Council may, where possible, provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application. If this is not possible, Council may provide information via its Council infoline 6592 5399, or by request to the person applying the pesticide.

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

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

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Council land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Council will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

**EXEMPTION:** Small uses of pesticide will be exempt e.g. 20 litres or less of **mixed** pesticide.

### **4. WHAT INFORMATION MAY BE PROVIDED**

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Regulation, notices of pesticide use must include **all** the following information:

- a) the full product name of the pesticide to be used
- b) the purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated
- c) the proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use
- d) the place where the pesticide is to be used
- e) contact telephone number and email address of the council officer who people can contact to discuss the notice
- f) any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

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**

Council may advise residents of the contents of the plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Council's libraries and main office at 2 Pulteney Street, Taree during office hours.
- placing a copy of the plan on the Council website at [www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au).
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

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

The notification plan may be reviewed every 5 years. The review may include:

- a report on progress of implementing the plan
- placing the plan on public exhibition, with any proposed changes and calling for public submissions
- in the light of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

## **7. CONTACT DETAILS**

Anyone wishing to contact Council to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Noxious Weeds Officer  
Greater Taree City Council  
2 Pulteney Street, Taree  
PO Box 482  
Taree NSW 2430  
Phone: (02) 6592 5399  
Fax: (02) 6592 5311  
Email: [gtaree@gtcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gtaree@gtcc.nsw.gov.au)  
Or access the website: [www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au)

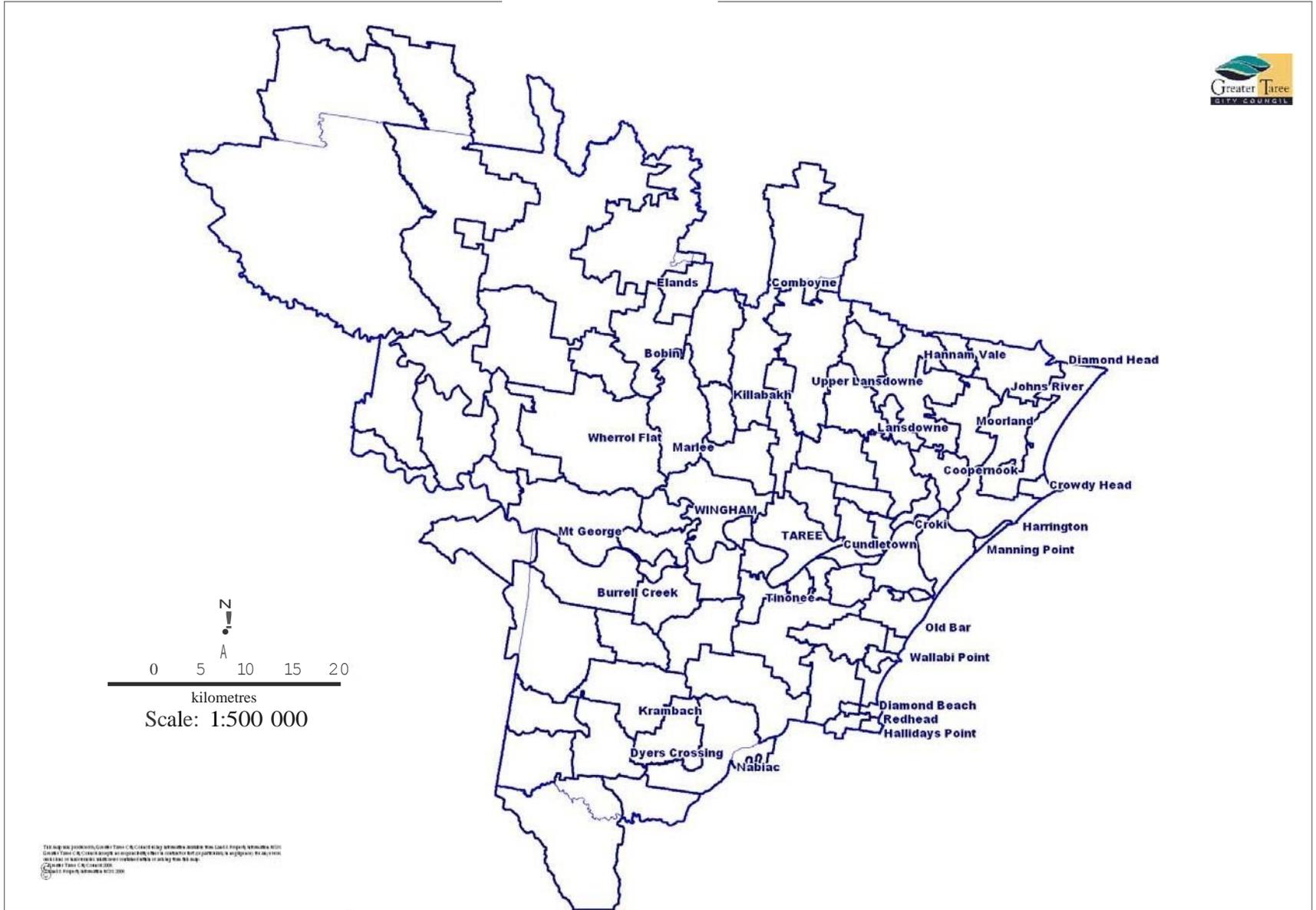
## **APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1. A map of the LGA boundaries showing key localities.
- Appendix 2. Public notification of the use of 1080.
- Appendix 3. Public notification when aerial boom spraying weeds.
- Appendix 4. Public notification when spraying weeds in drains.
- Appendix 5. Sample of Council's pesticide warning sign.

# Appendix 1



A map of the LGA boundaries showing key localities



## **Appendix 2. Public notification of the use of 1080**

The conditions of use of 1080 for the control of foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs or rabbits in NSW is specified in various Pesticide Control Orders (PCOs) issued under the NSW *Pesticides Act 1999*. Notification of 1080 use by Great Lakes Council will comply with the requirements specified in the relevant PCO as well as any additional requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* not included in the PCO (see below).

The notification procedure outlined below, addresses the requirements in the Pesticide Control (ACTA 1080 Concentrate) Order 2006 and the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*. It is extracted from Schedule 2 of the PCO for the "Use of ACTA 1080 concentrate bait material for control of foxes in rural and urban bushland areas". The numbers 4.1 through 6.2 are the numbers in this PCO.

### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION**

4.1 A person shall not lay any 1080 fox baits on any property unless the person has first given a minimum of 3 days notice of the date on which they will use 1080 fox baits. This notice must be given to the occupier of every property which has a boundary within one kilometre of a baiting location ("notification").

4.2. The notification can be given by telephone or in person, or, where this is not possible, by mail. If neighbours cannot be contacted by telephone, personal contact or mail, or the number of neighbours is large (>50) then notification by advertisement in a local newspaper is permissible.

4.3 Baiting may be conducted for longer than 7 days but must commence within 7 days of this notification otherwise further notification of intended baiting is required.

4.4 Where baiting programs are continuous and ongoing (in accordance with condition 2.9) notification must be undertaken at intervals no greater than 6 months.

### **EMERGENCY BAITING**

5.1 A person whose stock or poultry are being mauled, killed or harassed may lay up to fifty (50) 1080 fox baits with approval from an Authorised Control Officer. This is the only occasion where the normal 3 day public notice period is not required. The landholder must however, notify anyone, whose property boundary lies within one kilometre of a baiting location immediately before laying the 1080 fox baits.

### **1080 POISONING NOTICES**

6.1 In every situation where a person lays 1080 fox baits, they must erect notices immediately before 1080 poisoning operations commence on a property. This also applies before emergency baiting can begin.

These notices must remain up for a minimum of 4 weeks from the last day of baiting. Notices must be placed:

- (i) At every entry to the baiting area; and
- (ii) At regular intervals along all public thoroughfares which border or pass through the baited area.

6.2 The Notices may be obtained from the Rural Lands Protection Board, and must specify that foxes are being poisoned [or wild dogs, rabbits or feral pigs if these are the target species], and the date the 1080 fox baits are first laid or the dates between which 1080 fox baits will be laid. In addition to the information required by the PCO, notices (signs) must also

contain the following information:

- the full product name of the product as it is listed on the Pesticide Control Order (i.e. the words "1080 poisoned bait");
- the place where the pesticide is used; and
- a contact telephone number for an officer from the Greater Taree City Council where the pesticide is being applied.

### **Appendix 3. Public notification when aerial boom spraying weeds**

#### **i. Public notice**

A public notice may be placed in a local newspaper during the month preceding the proposed operation to notify the public of one or more of the following:

- the area proposed to be sprayed and the reserve/beach/road/track closures; that these areas will be patrolled and cleared of people prior to spraying; and possible traffic delays
- proposed dates and anticipated duration of the spraying operation
- the agency/council undertaking the operation
- the full product name of the herbicide to be used (as per the label/APVMA Permit)
- purpose of the application (i.e. to control bitou bush)
- any warnings regarding re-entry to the place of application specified on the product label or the APVMA permit for use
- a hotline or contact number.

In addition, local radio announcements may be broadcast one week before and on the morning of the spraying operation.

#### **ii. Signage**

Signs may be placed on all roads, trails and tracks which give access to the treated area. The signs will be put up at least 24 hours before the spraying operation. Signs may contain the following information:

- prior to the spray operation, the words “Planned aerial spraying of bitou bush in this area” [Closure of a reserve/beach/road/track - see (iii) below: the words “Warning – No Entry – Aerial spraying of bitou bush in progress”]
- full product name of the herbicide as listed on the label/APVMA Permit
- purpose of the application (i.e. to control bitou bush)
- who is undertaking the operation (i.e. the agency coordinating the spray program and not the contractor e.g. Greater Taree City Council)
- map of the proposed area to be treated
- the place name at which the herbicide is to be applied
- a statement that access to the area marked on the map will be closed to the public during the spray program [Closure of a reserve/beach/road/track - see (iii) below: signs may contain a statement that visitors are advised not to enter areas marked on the map during the times outlined on the sign].
- proposed date/s and times (starting time – finishing time); the exact date will depend on various factors and thus the sign must specify a range of proposed dates
- contact details for inquiries (name and telephone number)
- any warnings regarding re-entry to the place of application specified on the product label/APVMA Permit.

All warning signs may be removed from the treated area following the spraying program.

#### **iii. Closure of public areas**

Protocols are needed to notify people who use the areas to be sprayed (i.e. reserves, beaches, roads and walking tracks). Signs notifying of reserve/beach/road/track closure due to the impending spray operation may be put up on all access roads and at the proposed helipad site at least 24 hours before the proposed aerial spraying operation. All warning signs may be removed from the treated area following the operation.

**iv. Notification prior to pesticide application within 150m of a dwelling, school premises, factory premises or another public place**

Greater Taree City Council may notify and obtain the consent from the occupier or person in charge of any dwelling, school premises, factory premises or another public place (excluding roads, travelling stock reserves and State Rail land), prior to applying pesticides within 150 m of that dwelling, school premises, factory premises or another public place. Such notification will include all information specified in section 4 of this plan. Greater Taree City Council must keep a record of the notification provided and a record of the consent from the occupier.

#### **Appendix 4. Public notification when spraying weeds in drains**

The conditions of use of herbicides for weed control in drains is specified in the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) "Licence to Pollute" issued to Greater Taree City Council under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*. Council will comply with the requirements specified in the relevant operating conditions as well as any additional requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* not included in the "Licence to Pollute" operating conditions. (see below).

The following information is extracted from Section 4 of the EPA Licence to Pollute.

- 01.2 This licence authorises the use of herbicide Roundup Biactive to be applied by the current National Registration Authority (NRA) label or permit.
- 01.3 The Licensee must take all reasonable steps to warn users of waters in the vicinity of the herbicide(s) application about any risks to human health or of harm to the environment which may arise from the application of herbicide(s) in the waters
- 01.4 At minimum, the Licensee must at least 2 days prior to the application of the herbicide(s) in the waters, give written notification to any occupier of the waters or any occupier of land adjacent to the waters into which herbicide(s) are to be applied, of the Licensee's intention to apply herbicide(s) in the waters which include at a minimum the following details:
  - a) what herbicide(s) is to be applied,
  - b) when the herbicide(s) is to be applied,
  - c) a warning not to use, drink or swim in the water until further notice,
  - d) that further information can be obtained from the Licensee, and
  - e) the Licensee's name and contact phone number.
- 01.5 At minimum, the Licensee must at least 2 days prior to the application of the herbicide(s) in the waters, publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the waters of the Licensee's intention to apply herbicide(s) to the waters which includes at a minimum the following details:
  - a) what herbicide(s) is to be applied,
  - b) when the herbicide(s) is to be applied,
  - c) a warning not to use, drink or swim in the water until further notice,
  - d) that further information can be obtained from the Licensee, and
  - e) the Licensee's name and contact phone number.

Appendix 5. Sample of Council's pesticide warning sign.

450 mm

 **WARNING**

# PESTICIDES IN USE

**Pesticide type:**

**Trade name:**

**Date of application:**

**Target pest:**

**Special requirements:**

**For further information contact:**  
Greater Taree City Council, Administration Building, Pulteney Street, Taree  
Ph: (02) 6592 5399 Fax: (02) 6592 5311 Email: [gtaree@gtcc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gtaree@gtcc.nsw.gov.au)

600 mm