

Sydney Olympic Park Authority Policy

Policy Name Environmental Management: Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Policy No. POL07/2

Department File No. F06/1108

Business Unit Environment & Ecology

Office Responsible Senior Manager, Environment & Ecology

Approving Officer Executive Director, Asset Management and Environmental Services

Date of Approval

| Version | Review | Date | Approved by |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | | 30 January 2007 | |
| 2 | Minor Update | May 2007 | GMOS |
| 3 | | 1 November 2010 | GMOS |
| | Reviewed | November 2012 | GMOS |
| | Reviewed by SM, E&E | January 2014 | |
| 3.1 | Reviewed by SM Environment & Ecology | January 2015 | GMOS |
| | Reviewed | 2016 | |
| 3.2 | Minor updates | February 2017 | EDO |
| 3.3 | Minor updates | June 2018 | Director Environment & Planning |
| 3.4 | Minor updates SME&E | August 2019 | ED AM&ES |

PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

Applicability

This Plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017*. The intention of the Plan is to ensure the community is notified when pesticides¹ are used on Sydney Olympic Park Authority lands, so that members of the community are able to take action to avoid contact with pesticides if they so choose.

It also identifies other legislative requirements under the *Pesticides Act 1999* and *Pesticides Regulation 2017* applicable to the Authority's operations, with the objective of promoting legal compliance and best practice environmental management by the Authority, its contractors and lessees engaged in the application of pesticides.

The Plan applies to all 'prescribed public places'² within Sydney Olympic Park and must be implemented by:

- staff responsible for commissioning or conducting pesticide applications at Sydney Olympic Park (including Newington Nature Reserve);
- staff responsible for entering into leases or licences of 'prescribed public places' at Sydney Olympic Park.

Penalties apply for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Policy requirements

1. Staff responsible for commissioning or conducting pesticide application at Sydney Olympic Park must comply with:
 - relevant provisions of the *NSW Pesticide Act 1999* & *NSW Pesticide Regulation 2017*, including those relating to use of pesticides, and requirements for licensing, record-keeping, and public notification
 - restrictions on pesticide use specified in the SOPA Biodiversity Management Plan, with particular regard to use of herbicide in frog habitat areas, and microbat roosts (Table 1).
2. Public notification of pesticide application in 'prescribed public places' of Sydney Olympic Park must be provided as per Table 2.
3. Public notification signage must include information specified in the *NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017*, being:
 - full product name of the pesticide to be used
 - purpose of the use, identifying the pest or pests being treated;
 - dates or date range of pesticide use;

¹ 'Pesticides' means an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the *Pesticides Act 1999*, and includes herbicides, fungicides, algaecides, insecticides, fumigants and rodenticides, but excludes pesticides used within a swimming pool or spa

² As defined in the *NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017*, being places where the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee), and including gardens, picnic areas, playgrounds, parks, sporting fields, and road verges, but does not include the inside of a building or structure, swimming pools or spas

- places where the pesticide is to be used;
 - any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if such warnings are specified on the product label or permit;
 - contact telephone number or email address of a SOPA officer who can be contacted to discuss the notice.
4. Records of pesticide application by staff or contractors must be made in accordance with requirements of the *NSW Pesticides Regulation 2017*, and copies placed on a dedicated electronic file (separate from contract /site management files), that is kept for at least three years. SOPA Environment Branch is responsible for establishing files and auditing of record-keeping compliance.
5. Staff responsible for entering into leases of 'prescribed public places' at Sydney Olympic Park must ensure, where relevant, that lessees are required to:
- comply with requirements of the *Pesticides Act 1999* and *Pesticides Regulation 2017*
 - provide public notification consistent with SOPA's Pesticide Use Notification Plan whenever pesticides are applied to 'prescribed public places'.

Policy background

Sydney Olympic Park Authority uses pesticides on its lands to treat pests, weeds and diseases. An integrated approach is applied to ensure pesticides are used only when necessary in an effort to protect the environment, to protect the Authority's assets and to minimise the potential exposure of the public to chemicals. Pest management programs generally focus on prevention followed by early control of new infestations. For established pest populations it may be necessary to aim to achieve a realistic level of control rather than eradication, use low environmental impact control techniques, operate at optimum treatment times and give greater weight to long term implications rather than short term convenience.

Matters considered in developing and conducting pest management programs include:

- maintaining landscape health and integrity to minimise pest, weed or disease outbreaks
- use of 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, and 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 – including requirements of the SOPA Biodiversity Management Plan
- long-term sustainable management strategies
- legislative obligations for pest control and for pesticide use and management.

Pesticides typically used at Sydney Olympic Park are:

- Selective and non-selective herbicides used for weed control, commonly applied by backpack spot-spraying or cut and paint techniques, and occasionally by vehicle-mounted spray equipment, or sub-surface irrigation of playing fields
- Insecticides used in and around buildings and structures to control pests such as cockroaches, ants, wasps, bees and spiders, commonly applied by spray treatment, or solid baits or powders
- Insecticides used to treat outbreaks of plant pests
- Algaecides used in fountains and water art features
- Solid rodenticides used within buildings and locked structures such as barbeques and irrigation boxes
- Larvicide used to control mosquitoes applied by aerial and ground-based spraying
- Selective pesticides for pest control on sports fields and turf areas, typically applied by vehicle mounted equipment.

Other types of pesticides may be used on occasion to address particular pest issues.

Plan availability and review

This Plan may be viewed on the website of the Sydney Olympic Park Authority at www.sopa.nsw.gov.au , and at the Authority's business office.

The Plan will be reviewed at least every five years or when circumstances require a review. Public consultation processes as specified in the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* will be implemented unless the substance of the plan is not significantly changed.

Contact Officer

Any enquiries relating to this Plan should be addressed to:

Senior Manager Environment & Ecology
Sydney Olympic Park Authority
5 Olympic Boulevard
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Phone: 9714 7300

Email: enquiries@sopa.nsw.gov.au

Table 1
Extract – SOPA Biodiversity Management Plan 2019
Provisions relating to pesticide use in habitat areas

Work Instruction - Pesticide use (including herbicides)

- Spray or paint application of Roundup bioactive (or equivalent) is approved for use within or adjacent to habitat areas of Sydney Olympic Park. Use of other registered herbicides by cut and paint method only is also approved for use within or adjacent to habitat areas of at Sydney Olympic Park.
- All other pesticides (including herbicides) and application methods proposed for use within Park habitat areas must undergo a SOPA ecological due diligence review and be approved for use in the particular location.
- Fertilisers and conditioners proposed for use on turf within lands zoned E2 or E3 must undergo a SOPA ecological due diligence review and be approved for use in the particular location.
- Type and placement of rat baits installed in open parkland areas must consider impacts to birds of prey – baits requiring more than one dose are to be preferentially used in such areas
- Spray application of herbicide must avoid non-target impacts to native vegetation
- Do not spray pesticides during windy conditions (>15kph), when soil is very wet, during rain, or where rain is forecast within six hours of application.
- Within frog habitat areas, do not spray herbicide on vegetation over 50mm tall, other than isolated weeds in mulched beds or footpaths. Do not spray herbicide within 5m of ponds or wetlands unless specifically instructed by SOPA
- No pesticide of any kind may be applied to the turfed lower slopes at the Northern Water Feature (below the path) over the period November to March, to avoid poisoning frogs that hunt on the lawns at night.
- Do not use spray application of herbicide within five metres of *Wilsonia backhousei* or *Zannichellia palustris*
- Herbicide must not contain dyes or other additives as these are generally harmful to wildlife.
- Do not mix herbicide within habitat areas.
- A spill kit must be available when applying herbicide, and staff trained in its use.

Table 2 – Public notification arrangements for pesticide application in public places at Sydney Olympic Park

| Public place category | Potentially affected persons | Level of use | Type of pesticide typically used | Notification arrangements / controls |
|--|--|--------------|---|--|
| When notification will <u>not</u> be provided | <p>Public notification will <u>not</u> be provided in any category of public place (including sensitive areas) where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pesticides are used in small quantities and readily available from retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered. For example: small quantities (less than 20 litres of 'ready-to-use' spray mix) pesticide applied by a hand-held applicator; herbicide application by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques; minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols, or public access is excluded by fencing, or lands are remote from public pathways and facilities eg bushland and estuarine areas more than 20m from public pathways, within Newington Nature Reserve, or application of pesticides is via sub-surface irrigation systems, or application of pesticides is into water features for the purposes of algal and bacterial control, or pesticide baits are locked within structures such as BBQ housings persons or organisations hold a lease on Sydney Olympic Park Authority land that remains a public place such as ANZ Stadium, Sydney Showground, Quodos Arena, Rugby Field, AFL Field and Tennis Centre. In these circumstances, the lessees will be provided with the Authority's Plan and requested to carry out public notification consistent with this Plan. | | | |
| Parklands and Township public domain - all areas; Aquatic Centre gardens Turf lawns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users Event crowds School groups Tourists | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides Algaecides (<i>in fountains and water art</i>) Mosquito larvicide (<i>hand-held application</i>) | <p>Where feasible, treatment areas will be closed to public access during pesticide application or treatments will be scheduled to avoid peak visitation times.</p> <p>Clearly visible signs (containing the information specified in the legislation) will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated, at all major access points. Signs will be installed just prior to pesticide application, and remain in place until the following day.</p> |
| - Playgrounds <i>(all playground areas have "soft fall" and sand bases; pesticides are rarely used)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users Young children | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides | |
| - Picnic shelters, barbeques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides | |
| - Road verges, median strips. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides | |
| - Pathways and cycleways. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides | |

Table 2 – Public notification arrangements for pesticide application in public places at Sydney Olympic Park

| Public place category | Potentially affected persons | Level of use | Type of pesticide typically used | Notification arrangements / controls |
|---|---|--------------|---|---|
| Public Sporting Fields at Parklands and sports venues; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sporting groups • Recreational Park Users • Event crowds • School Groups • Elite Athletes | High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides • Insecticides | <p>Notification signs will be displayed during pesticide applications that are conducted when facilities are open to the public, and remain in place to the end of the following day.</p> <p>The licensee for groups booked to use affected facilities within 24 hours after pesticide application will be advised by email or fax.</p> |
| Newington Nature Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Escorted special interest tour groups | Very Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito larvicide (<i>aerial and hand-held application</i>) • Herbicides • Insecticides • Fox den fumigants | <p>Public access into the Reserve wetlands will be excluded during aerial mosquito treatments.</p> <p>Public access into the Reserve will be excluded during fox den fumigation or feral honeybee bee control.</p> |
| Lands adjacent to Newington Nature Reserve | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational park users • School excursion groups | Medium/High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mosquito larvicide (<i>aerial application, approx. 5-7 times per year</i>) | <p>Notification signs containing the specified information will be installed on all pathways adjacent to Newington Nature Reserve wetland over the months that treatments may occur, typically November to March.</p> <p>During aerial treatments, additional notification signs will be placed at each end of the River Walk, at the edge of The Flats, and around the helicopter landing area.</p> <p>Email advice will be provided to any members of the public wishing to receive prior notification 24 hours in advance of scheduled treatments.</p> <p>A fact sheet providing details of the mosquito control program will be available on the Authority's website.</p> |
| <p>Special measures in sensitive areas</p> <p><i>(within 20m of : the common boundary with Newington Public School; parklands education and field studies centre buildings; childcare centres; any new schools, childcare centres or hospital built subsequent to this Plan)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students and infants • Recreational park users | Medium/High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides • Insecticides | <p>Details of pesticides to be used by the Authority or its agents within 20m of 'sensitive places' will be provided in writing to facility operators 48 hours in advance of intended treatments. Notification signs will be displayed during pesticide applications as set out above.</p> <p>Where feasible, pesticides will only be applied at times when children are not present (eg school holidays).</p> |
| Emergency application – all areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • variable | Variable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As 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) | <p>Where possible the public will be excluded from the area to be treated for the duration of any specified exclusion period or until treatment is completed.</p> <p>Where the public are not excluded, members of the public within the treatment area will be verbally notified and notification signs will be displayed during pesticide applications as set out above.</p> |

