

State Water

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

March 2007

Document Number: SW2007-P0123
Published: www.statewater.com.au
Government Gazette: 16 March 2007

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State Water Pesticides 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 aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made to outdoor public areas that are owned or controlled by State Water Corporation. The term 'pesticides', used throughout this plan, encompasses the application of pesticides as well as herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and fertilisers.

This plan details how State Water will notify members of the community about applications of pesticides in its public places. The plan will therefore enable community members to make informed decisions when visiting State Water owned public places and to take action to avoid contact with these pesticides if they wish.

The plan describes:

- What are the State Water public places covered by the plan
- Who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use
- How and when State Water and its contractors will provide the community with information about pesticide applications
- How the community can access this plan or more information about State Water's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- State Water contact details.

What is a public place? Under the Pesticide Regulation 1995 a "prescribed public place" is defined as:

"(a) any of the following to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee):

(i) any public garden,

(ii) any picnic area,

(iii) any playground,

(iv) any park, sporting field or oval,

(v) any public land owned or controlled by a public authority (for example, a road verge, rail easement or an easement for electricity purposes or for the purposes of other utilities),

(vi) any land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 or any State forest or Crown land, or

(b) the grounds of any government school (within the meaning of the Education Act 1990) or any establishment maintained by the Technical and Further Education Commission,

but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place."

State Water is a State Owned Corporation and is responsible for all NSW bulk water delivery functions outside of the areas of operation of the Sydney Catchment Authority, Sydney Water Corporation, Hunter Water Corporation and of other water supply authorities. State Water owns 20 large dams and one small dam, and manages another 11 small dams on behalf of the Department of Lands. Additionally, State Water owns and manages more than 280 weirs and regulators.

State Water delivers water to irrigation corporations, country town water supply authorities, farms, mines and electricity generators by releasing flows from its dams into

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rivers to be accessed by water users. It also provides water for stock and domestic users and is responsible for delivering environmental flows on regulated rivers.

State Water's core water delivery business provides services to about 6,200 customers who purchase water sourced from 'regulated rivers'. These services include the operation of its assets (the dams and weirs) to deliver allocated water from storages, metering and commercial services. The operation of these assets enables the annual delivery of more than 5,500GL of water to regional NSW on average, along 7,000km of rivers. In accordance with Water Sharing Plans, we also deliver about 9,000GL of water for the environment.

Adjacent to, and associated with, the above described water delivery assets, there are areas of foreshore land, workshops and site offices and public amenities, such as picnic facilities and viewing platforms. State Water is responsible for the sustainable management of these areas. The appropriate use of pesticides is therefore required to protect property, people and native flora and fauna from pests and noxious weeds, as well as to ensure the long term viability of these areas.

State Water, its contractors and its lessees are bound by this document. State Water ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or environment. All employees or lessees responsible for applications of chemicals for pest or weed control are trained and certified in the use of pesticides. Chemicals used by State Water are appropriately stored in locked workshops with a suitable Chemical Register. Chemicals are not stored on leased land. It is State Water policy to obtain chemicals as required, with little to no long-term stockpiles stored on site.

Broad principles employed by State Water, its contractors and lessees include:

- Stakeholder communication and notification.
- Spraying in public areas when use of the site and visitation will be low, eg outside of school holidays, on weekends if near work offices.
- Taking into consideration the weather and climatic conditions of the day to reduce offsite impacts.
- Being aware of neighbouring land use and chemical restrictions to ensure no flow on effects, eg organic areas, vineyards.

Appendix 4 contains a map which identifies State Water's key management sites across NSW.

For more information about State Water and its areas of operation, please refer to www.statewater.com.au

2. Public Places Covered by this Plan

State Water proposes to use pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places under its care, control or ownership:

- Commercially leased land – eg hydro power stations, resorts/conference facilities, golf courses
- Other leased land – eg greater foreshores, river banks and land adjacent to National Parks
- Land adjacent to structures – near dam walls, weirs, salt interception schemes and land adjacent to National Parks
- State Water public amenities – eg picnic areas, toilet facilities, barbeque areas, public open space, walking trails
- Camping areas – including areas adjacent to camping areas operated by other authorities and land adjacent to Sport and Recreation Facilities and State Parks
- Roads and structures - including verges, bridges, dam walls, car parks, mailboxes
- Viewing areas, platforms and lookouts

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- State Water on-site (dam or weir) offices – including work sheds, residences and associated structures
- State Water off-site (township) offices
- State Water control huts – including gauging stations, SCADA facilities; on land owned by State Water, other government authorities, private landholders
- Water bodies created or controlled by State Water structures
- Land adjacent or near-by agricultural (privately owned) land.

State Water's estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups, type of pesticide use and application method for each of these public places is summarised in Appendix 4.

3. Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when State Water will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, sensitive places requirements, arrangements for emergency pesticide application, leasehold land management and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification arrangements consider State Water's assessment of the:

- level of use by the public of places where State Water, its contractors or lessees may apply pesticides, etc;
- extent to which given activities could lead to contact with the applications; and
- types of pesticides, herbicides or fertilisers used.

a. How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided

Notice of pesticide use will be provided by a combination of:

- Permanent signage
- Temporary signage
- Vehicle signage
- Annual public notice advertised via local newspapers
- Annual public notice placed on State Water website
- Letters, phone calls or emails to those directly affected.

On occasions when permits from Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Natural Resources are required to apply pesticides, this plan would be superseded by the requirements of the relevant NSW environmental legislation and regulations.

Refer to Appendix 4 for an outline of how and when notice will be provided for each public place.

Refer to Appendix 2 and 3 for Annual Notice and Temporary Signage Templates.

Situations where no notification will be given are described in 3e.

b. Special measures for sensitive places

Clause 11J of the Pesticides Regulation defines a "Sensitive Place" to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
- Childcare centre
- Hospital
- Community health centre
- Nursing home
- Any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Department of Environment and Conservation by notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

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Based on an audit of sites, State Water owns, controls and manages only one site adjacent to a sensitive place. For pesticide use adjacent to this sensitive place (a small village primary school), State Water will implement the notification measures as described in Appendix 1 and in addition:

- Ensure pesticide application occurs, wherever possible, outside school hours
- Use hand application or spot spraying in preference to broadscale application, where practicable
- Notify the school 48 hours prior to the application of pesticides, if an application during school hours is unavoidable.

The low number of adjacent sensitive sites, is a result of State Water being remotely based, rural and often isolated. State Water areas are however, often visited by school groups and recreational users and are adjacent to facilities such as State Parks and Department of Sport and Recreation camps. As identified within the notification process, the appropriate signage would be displayed around these recreational areas and all efforts made to apply pesticides when visitation is highly unlikely.

State Water owns, manages and controls land adjacent to designated National Parks. Although not defined in the Regulation as sensitive places, these Parks have high environmental and cultural significance, and value which must be maintained. Pesticide use on land adjacent to these areas will be applied to minimise impact on these sites, and in most cases, pesticides will be used to protect the native flora and fauna in these adjacent areas from harmful insects, feral animals or invasive (exotic) vegetation.

Much of the land controlled and managed by State Water is adjacent to water bodies – rivers, creeks and storages. State Water actively seeks to ensure there is no run-off or contamination of adjacent waterways during the storing and application of pesticides to ensure the protection of aquatic ecosystems, recreational amenity and human health.

In addition, State Water also manages land adjacent to sensitive agricultural areas such as horticulture plots, fish farms and organic areas. To ensure the viability of these areas are not jeopardised State Water will work closely with adjoining landholders to identify potential risks, develop appropriate mitigation measures and notify as appropriate. Refer to Appendix 1, section 12 for specific notification requirements.

c. 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 locusts, wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), signs will be placed “on site”. Signs will be put up immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place until the operation is completed (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). If undertaken in conjunction with other authorities, eg coordinated locust spraying, special notification requirements will be agreed upon and implemented.

d. Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

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

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on State Water owned land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, State Water will require them to notify in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

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e. Public Places and Pesticide uses where no notification will be provided by State Water or its contractors or lessees.

Much of the pesticide use on State Water land is carried out by individuals using spot spraying with direct application. In addition the majority of pesticide use by State Water involves readily accessible, low risk chemicals, for example Glyphosate (eg Round-up).

As such State Water will not provide notification for the following pesticide uses in any of the public places it controls or owns:

- Public places over which lessees control the management of these lands. State Water will not provide notification of pesticide use in relation to these public places, but it will require the lessee carry out the notification of any pesticide use in a manner consistent with the plan;
- Pesticides which are readily available to the general public at retail outlets and used in small quantities for the control of pests for which they are registered. For example:
 - Small quantities of Glyphosate (eg Round-up) by a handheld applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection
 - Minor control of indoor and outdoor pests (eg mice, cockroaches) using baits or hand-held aerosols.

4. What information will be provided?

In accordance with Clause 11L(2)(g) of the Regulation, notices of pesticide use must include all 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 application.
- The place where the application will occur.
- Contact telephone number of the State Water contact officer.
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to (i.e. withholding period) 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 standard design and size to ensure they are easily recognisable to the public and employees.

5. Public Exhibition of this Plan

A public notice was placed in the Sydney Morning Herald inviting community input and review on the draft Plan. Targeted letters were also forwarded to key stakeholders, such as State Park and Sport and Recreation Areas, inviting comment on the draft Plan.

State Water placed the Plan on exhibition for a period of four weeks. The draft was available for review at the following locations:

- www.statewater.com.au
- State Water Head Office Dubbo
- State Water Area Offices at:
 - Moree
 - Muswellbrook
 - Dubbo
 - Leeton
- Request a copy by contacting 02 6841 2000
- Or send an email to pesticidefeedback@statewater.com.au

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State Water welcomed written submissions in response to the draft Plan from all stakeholders. State Water requested that the following items be included in a written submission:

- Reasons for interest in the draft Plan
- Opinions of the draft Plan
- Suggestions concerning any alternatives or improvements to the draft Plan
- Any other information and aspects that are relevant to the draft Plan.

Written submissions regarding the draft Plan closed on the Friday 29 December 2006.

There were no submissions received regarding the draft Plan.

6. How the Community will be informed of the Plan

The NSW community can view the Plan by downloading it from the State Water website or by calling 02 6241 2000 to receive a copy by mail.

The community will also be advised that State Water has implemented this plan in the annual notice to be placed in local newspapers.

7. Future Reviews of the Plan

Unless there is a specific need for an earlier review, this Plan will be reviewed every five years. This review will include:

- A report on progress of implementing the Plan
- Public consultation on the effectiveness of the notification methods outlined in the Plan
- Recommendations for alterations or improvements (if applicable) to the Plan.

8. Contact details

For site specific chemical use please contact the Duty Officer on site, see Appendix 1 – Customer Service Areas brochure.

For general enquiries regarding State Water's Pesticides Use Notification Plan, please contact Jocelyn Karsten, Environmental Projects Officer via email: Jocelyn.Karsten@statewater.com.au or phone: 02 4904 2576.

Appendices

1. Customer Service Areas Brochure (A3 – map one side, contact details on reverse)
2. Annual Notice Template
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5. Examples of Pesticides used by State Water

Appendix 2**Annual Notice Template**State
water**Pesticides Use – Annual Notice**

[LOCATION]

[YEAR]

State Water and its lessees regularly use herbicides, pesticides, fertilisers, insecticides and fungicides to maintain the safety and health of areas under its care or control.

At [LOCATION] State Water expects the following pesticide applications to be made:

- Pesticides in the control of (name pest)
- Herbicides in the control of (name weeds)
- Insecticides in the control of (name creepy crawly)
- Fungicide in the control of (name slime)
- Fertiliser to promote (name reason)

State Water will place signage relating to such chemicals at site entrances, notice boards or highly visible locations 48 hours before applications of pesticides. These notices will remain on display for 48 hours after the application occurs.

State Water encourages members of the community to keep this notice somewhere handy for year-round reference. It is important for visitors to our sites to regularly check local notice boards for advice of chemical use and activities.

If you would like any further information regarding any of the chemicals noted above, please contact us on [INSERT Number].

Contact:

[insert name]
telephone numbers (inc mobile)
[insert insert_name@statewater.com.au]

This notice also appears at www.statewater.com.au

STATE WATER CORPORATION ABN 21 147 934 787

Appendix 3

Temporary Signage Notice, may also be used if an advertisement needs to be placed in a newspaper for a specific application


Pesticides Use Notice
Name of Application: eg Grazon
Date of Application: [XXpm, XX Month 200X]
Description: [not more than 4-6 lines, about where the application will occur, what the pesticide/herbicides/fungicide/chemical is being used for and any preventative measures to be used.]
Warnings regarding this application: [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]
For Enquiries: [insert name] telephone numbers (inc mobile) [insert insert_name@statewater.com.au]
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Appendix 4 State Water's public places, regular user groups, estimate of the level of community use, types of applications likely to be made and notification arrangements.

Public places cared for, owned by, or controlled by State Water	Regular user groups	Level of use by the public	Type of pesticide use	Application Method	Notification Arrangement
1. Commercially leased land	Golfers, hydro employees, anglers, boating community, recreational users, school groups	HIGH (daily)	Herbicides Pesticides Fertilisers Insecticides Fungicides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	* All lessees to receive a copy of this plan * Golf courses to have permanent signage referring to frequent applications * State Water to provide all lessees with template of appropriate notification <i>Broadscale applications:</i> * Signage at entrances 48 hours prior to and after any applications * Issue notifications to adjacent lessees advising of imminent applications <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required
2. Other leased land (foreshores)	Lessees, Contractors Recreational users, government employees,	HIGH (daily) LOW but periodically HIGH during school holidays	Herbicides Pesticides Fertilisers Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	<i>Broadscale applications:</i> * Notifications of all applications to be placed on State Park noticeboards 48 hours prior to and post applications * Mandatory notification to State Water of broadscale applications <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required
3. Land adjacent to structures	Recreational users, General Public, government employees, contractors, lessees	LOW but periodically HIGH during school holidays and weekends	Herbicides Pesticides Fertilisers Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	<i>Broadscale applications:</i> * Notifications of all applications to be placed at entrance 48 hours prior to and post applications <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required

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Public places cared for, owned by, or controlled by State Water	Regular user groups	Level of use by the public	Type of pesticide use	Application Method	Notification Arrangement
4. State Water public amenities	Recreational users, General Public, school groups, contractors	LOW but periodically HIGH during school holidays and weekends	Herbicides Pesticides Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits) Applications to avoid unfavourable weather, weekends, school holidays and other peak times	* Annual public notices place in local newspapers * Public notice placed on State Water Website <i>Broadscale applications:</i> * Notifications of all applications to be placed at entrance 48 hours prior to and post applications <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required
5. Camping areas and adjacent to other recreational areas	Recreational users, school groups, contractors, employees of State Parks	LOW but periodically HIGH during school holidays and weekends	Herbicides Pesticides Fertilisers Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	<i>Broadscale applications:</i> * Notifications of all applications to be placed at entrance 48 hours prior to and post applications * Letter to council/State Recreational Park/owner of camping ground if any State Water applications are likely to impact the camping area <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required
6. Roads and structures	General Public, government employees, contractors	HIGH (daily)	Herbicides Pesticides Fungicides / Biocides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	* Annual public notices place in local newspapers * Public notice placed on State Water Website * Signage to be placed on vehicles when spraying * If using pesticides other than Round-up or broadscale application required, signage to

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Public places cared for, owned by, or controlled by State Water	Regular user groups	Level of use by the public	Type of pesticide use	Application Method	Notification Arrangement
				<p>Applications to avoid unfavourable weather, weekends, school holidays and other peak times</p> <p>Usually only involves spot applications of Round-up</p>	<p>remain on site for 24 hours post-application.</p>
7. Viewing areas and platforms	General Public, government employees, contractors	LOW but periodically HIGH during school holidays and weekends	Herbicides Pesticides Insecticides	<p>Hand held application (wand, quickspray)</p> <p>Boomspray</p> <p>Manual placement (including baits)</p> <p>Applications to avoid unfavourable weather, weekends, school holidays and other peak times</p> <p>Usually only involves spot applications of Round-up.</p>	<p>* Annual public notices place in local newspapers</p> <p>* Public notice placed on State Water Website</p> <p>* Signage to be placed on vehicles when spraying</p> <p>* If using pesticides other than Round-up or broadscale application required, signage to remain on site for 24 hours post-application.</p>
8. State Water on-site (dam or weir) offices	Employees, customers, contractors, General Public, school groups, government employees	HIGH (daily)	Herbicides Pesticides Insecticides	<p>Hand held application (wand, quickspray)</p> <p>Manual placement (including baits)</p> <p>No broadscale application</p>	<p>* Local signage when spraying</p>

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Public places cared for, owned by, or controlled by State Water	Regular user groups	Level of use by the public	Type of pesticide use	Application Method	Notification Arrangement
				to occur	
9. State Water off-site (township) offices	Employees, customers, contractors, General Public, school groups, government employees	HIGH (daily)	Herbicides Pesticides Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits) Application to occur outside working hours to minimise exposure	* Email to all staff at the location
10. State Water Control Huts	Employees, contractors, landholders, Department of Natural Resources employees	MEDIUM (weekly)	Herbicides Pesticides Insecticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	* Spot applications only * If near a residence, stock or crop, landholder to be advised by telephone * If a remote location no advice is needed * Seek advice from nearby farmers prior to spraying to meet needs of organic agricultural practices if appropriate
11. Water bodies created or controlled by State Water structures	Recreational users, general public, government employees, lessees	MEDIUM but periodically HIGH during school holidays	Specialist in the event of algae or aquatic weed out-break	Hand held application (wand, quickspray)	* Meet the requirements, regulations and legislation of the Department of Environment and Conservation and Department of Natural Resources * Prominent notice in the local media * Notify DNR, DEC, DPI * Gain permit as required * A tailored Communications Plan will be developed in consultation with State Water Corporate Services

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Public places cared for, owned by, or controlled by State Water	Regular user groups	Level of use by the public	Type of pesticide use	Application Method	Notification Arrangement
12. State Water owned and operated land adjacent to or near-by sensitive agricultural areas (privately owned)	Landholders and their family/employees/contractors, stock	HIGH (daily)	Herbicides Pesticides	Hand held application (wand, quickspray) Boomspray Manual placement (including baits)	* Annual public notices placed in local newspapers to stipulate that adjacent landholders must advise of their needs with regard to State Water application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers <i>Spot applications:</i> * No notification required <i>Broadscale application:</i> * registered landholders notified in writing ahead of application.

Note: for examples of pesticides used by State Water refer to Appendix 5.

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Appendix 5

Examples of pesticide chemicals used by State Water

Pesticide Use	Chemical Used and Target Use
Pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pindone (Rabbits) • 1080 (Rabbits, foxes, pigs, cats) • Fox Off (Foxes) • Rat Blocks (Rats and Mice) • Domestic Flysprays eg Mortein (cockroaches, flies, spiders, termites, mosquitoes)
Insecticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ant Control (Ants) • FENITROTHION 1000 (Ants) • Dursban "Chlorpyrifos" (Spiders and Termites)
Herbicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-up (weeds, willows) • Cut Out (Blackberries) • Brush Off (Blackberries) • MCPA (Patterson's Curse, broadleaf weeds) • Grazon (Blackberries, Palms) • SU metsulfuron 600 herbicide (Blackberries) • Taskforce "Flouropanate" (Serrated Tussock) • Kamba & Dicamba (Broadleaf weeds) • Garlon 600 "triclopyr" (Woody weeds) • Starane200 (Thorny Acacia)
Fungicide / Biocides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legion X (flushing piezometers)
Fertilisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gypsum / lime / superphosphate (picnic / recreational areas)