

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN



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PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009* (the Regulation).

The aim of this plan is to meet the community's general right to know about pesticide applications made 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. The Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) ensures that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

The plan sets out how the LHIB will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by the LHIB to public places that it owns or controls.

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 the LHIB 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
- the LHIB's notification arrangements;
- how future reviews of the plan will be conducted and
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with the LHIB.

This plan addresses a component of the LHIB's Corporate Plan. The LHIB Corporate Plan aims to develop programs and projects which protect and enhance public health and to invest in resources and systems to enhance the Board's capacity as a land administrator and consent authority.

The majority of pesticide use consists of applying herbicides for weed control and applying insecticides to manage certain insect pests. Bait insecticides are used for ant control to protect Lord Howe Island's (LHI) unique flora and fauna and public safety wherever this is considered an effective solution. Other pesticides used include fungicides and rodenticides to control rats and mice.

Further information on the LHIB's pesticide use can be obtained by calling the LHIB on 02 6563 2066 or visiting the LHIB website: <u>lhib.nsw.gov.au</u>

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

The LHIB proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places on LHI:

- the playground;
- picnic/BBQ areas;
- vacant crown land;
- crown land reserved and dedicated for public purposes;
- crown land reserved and dedicated for preserving native flora and fauna including the LHI Permanent Park Preserve (PPP), and Stevens Reserve;
- sporting fields and ovals;
- certain buildings and facilities controlled or owned by the LHIB;

- road verges and road reserves and
- easements accessible to the public.

The main user groups of, and types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

Public places Controlled by the LHIB	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Playground	 local residents visitors children young families 	High	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control
Picnic areas	 local residents visitors children young families 	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Vacant Crown Iand	 local residents visitors children young families general recreational users (e.g. bushwalkers, joggers, bird watchers, dog-walkers) 	High	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Crown land reserved and dedicated for public purposes including the Lagoon Foreshore and Signal Point, Flagstaff	 local residents visitors children young families general recreational users 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users)	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Crown land reserved for the protection of flora and fauna including the PPP and Stevens Reserve	 local residents visitors children young families guided walking tours general recreational users (e.g. bushwalkers, joggers, bird watchers) 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users) on walking tracks, but not in remote areas	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Road verges and road reserves	 local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Low to Medium	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides rat bait control

Public places Controlled by the LHIB	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Easements accessible to the public (e.g. footpaths)	 local residents or visitors walking 	Low to Medium	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides
Drains	 local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain 	Low to Medium	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides
LHIB Owned Buildings	 local residents visitors children young families other social groups local residents or visitors who walk or drive past the hall 	High	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Backup Generator Site	 local residents and people who work in the area 	Low	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
Public Toilet grounds	 local residents visitors children young families 	Low to Medium	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control
War Memorial	 local residents visitors children young families local residents or visitors who walk or drive past memorial 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users especially on Anzac day)	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides
Interiors of public buildings	 community associations general members of the public local residents visitors children young families 	High	 spot insecticides ant bait control rat bait control

Public places Controlled by the LHIB	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Former LHIB Nursery	 general members of the public local residents visitors children young families 	Low to Medium	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control spot insecticides
LHIB Waste Management Facility	 LHIB staff local residents and people who work in the area visitors 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users)	 spot herbicides broadscale selective herbicides broadscale non-selective herbicides ant bait control rat bait control spot insecticides

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when the LHIB will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including special measures for sensitive places and places identified by the LHIB as sensitive areas, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification requirements are based on the LHIB'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) and
- the type of pesticide used and application method.

3.2 How and when notice of pesticide use will be provided:

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

- signs;
- information in the LHIB website or Community Information Bulletin (which will describe programmed, reactive and emergency pesticide use in public places);
- letters and householders;
- fax and email;
- door knocking;
- telephone contact;
- information on the LHIB notice boards; and
- information in the local newspaper (Signal);

Situations where no notification will be given are described in section 3.8 of this plan.

Pesticide use is subject to suitable conditions such as weather. Generally, notice of pesticide use will be provided in the ways described below:

3.2.1 Application types

Spot application of pesticides is using a backpack or hand held applicator (e.g.

spray can & ant bait spreaders) delivering a low volume in a restricted area. Examples include control of grass around infrastructure, spot spraying environmental weeds, basal bark, stem injection and cut and paint applications, . This may be part of a regular maintenance program, or unplanned reactive situations.

<u>Directed application</u> of pesticides is using a gas powered gun or a mechanical pump and hand held automated nozzle delivering splatter or spray, generally in a linear pattern. Examples include control of weeds in difficult to access areas or preparing broad scale revegetation sites.

<u>Aerial spot-spraying</u> is infrequently required for target control of remote cliff line infestations of priority weeds within the PPP. This involves the use of a lance or cone spray apparatus attached to a helicopter, or Unmanned Automated Vehicle/Aerial Robotics (UAV/AR) platform.

<u>Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT)</u> involves the application of pelletised herbicide with a pneumatic gun, (similar to a paint ball gun) to deliver precision targeted control of weeds. This technology aims to improve efficiency, reduced off target and to increased safety in accessing weeds in rugged terrain. HBT can be applied from helicopter or on ground.

Bait rodenticides where used as part of an ongoing program (first use of pesticide only).

<u>Broadscale application</u> of pesticides is considered to involve boom sprays and other methods delivering high volumes over a wide area (e.g. the LHIB's Quick Spray Unit). Handheld broadcast spreaders may be used to distribute insecticides such as Amdro granular ant bait.

The LHIB website or Community Information Bulletin will provide prior notice of scheduled pesticide applications, such as:

- spot herbicide application;
- direct application;
- aerial spot-spraying & HBT;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

3.3 Notification arrangements

3.3.1 Outdoor recreation areas

The notification arrangements described below will apply to the following public place categories controlled by the LHIB on LHI:

- picnic areas;
- vacant crown land;
- crown land reserved and dedicated for public purposes;

- crown land reserved and dedicated for preserving native flora and fauna; including the PPP, and Stevens Reserve and
- sporting fields and ovals.

In these public places, information on the use of pesticides will be published in the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, all guest lodges on the Island will be notified by fax or email at least 24 hrs prior to pesticide use and signs will be displayed in the general treatment area or main entrance immediately prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order (PCO) requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

3.3.2 Roads, road reserves, utility or other easements accessible to the public

Information on the forward program for broadscale and/or spot herbicide use will be published on the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, all guest lodges on the Island will be notified by fax or email at least 24 hours prior to application and signs will be provided in the general application area or main entrance prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

Where programmed spot herbicide applications occur on the above easements, within 20 metres of 'sensitive places' notification arrangements will be conducted in accordance with subsection 3.5 of this plan.

Notice cannot be given where occupiers of private properties adjacent to LHIB public places use pesticides on parts of these public places near their properties without LHIB approval.

Walking tracks and pathways

Pesticide use on walking tracks and pathways (e.g. track from Middle Beach Rd – Anderson Rd) will have signs placed prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed). All guest lodges on the Island will be notified by fax or email at least 24 hours prior to application for the following pesticide uses:

• spot herbicide application;

- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides; and
- ant bait control.

Tracks may be closed if it is considered that there is a likelihood of the public being in direct contact with sprayed foliage.

For aerial spot-spraying and HBT walking tracks will be closed in accordance with subsection 3.3.6 of this plan.

Camping grounds

Camping may be permitted with approval of the LHIB at North Bay within the LHI Permanent Park Preserve (PPP). Camping areas will be closed prior to the use of pesticides and information on the use of pesticides will be published on the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use. An information sign will also be displayed at the main entrances to North Bay and at the entrances to the camp sites prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides and
- ant bait control.

Additional information will also be available at the LHIB Administration Office.

3.3.3 Cemeteries

For the cemetery, application is through spot application of selective and non-selective herbicides for the following pesticides uses:

- Bindii and broad leaf weeds, selective herbicide and
- directed application of non-selective herbicide is occasionally undertaken in areas that can't be mown.

Information on the use of pesticides will be published on the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, signs will be provided in the general application area or main entrance prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

3.3.4 Airport and airstrip

For the LHI Airport terminal, information on the forward program for pesticide use will be published in the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, all guest lodges on the Island will be notified by fax or email at least 24 hours prior to application and signs will be provided in the general application area or main entrances at least 12 hours prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

The occupiers and people who work in the area will be provided with 24 hours prior notice via telephone, email or fax (whichever is most practicable). Pesticide application will only occur between scheduled flights for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

For the LHI Airstrip, information on the use of pesticides will be published in the LHIB website or Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, signs will be provided in the general application area or main entrance prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

3.3.5 LHIB owned or controlled buildings

These buildings are either located in high use areas or are occupied by families and young children who may be sensitive to pesticide use. For these buildings, information on the use of pesticides will be published in the LHIB website or Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, the occupiers of the buildings and surrounding buildings will be provided with 24 hours prior notice via telephone, email or fax (whichever is most practicable) and an information sign will be displayed at the entrance to the buildings prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least until the product has dried (where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

Where any of the above pesticide uses occurs within 20 metres of 'sensitive places' notification arrangements will be conducted in accordance with subsection 3.5 of this plan

The LHIB Waste Management Facility (WMF)

For the WMF, the gate to the facility will be closed for the duration of pesticide use at the time of the application and, an information sign will also be displayed at the main entrance. Pesticides will only be used when the WMF is closed to public access for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- ant bait control; and
- bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

3.3.6 Other areas

In these areas the method of notification will vary.

<u>Pesticide Control Order (PCO)</u>: For vertebrate and invertebrate pesticides covered by a PCO, notification will be as specified in the relevant Order, unless the Order does not specify all of the information required by the Regulation. If the latter occurs, signs and/or notices will also provide the information required by the Regulation (see section 4 of this Plan).

<u>Aerial spot-spraying weeds & HBT</u>: Signs will be placed at the entrance to the walking tracks that may interface with aerial spot-spraying operations and the walking tracks will remain closed for the duration of the operation. This is required to maintain public and air safety. Signs will be displayed at least 24 hours prior to pesticide use and will remain in place at least 1 hr after the operation has ceased (or where the pesticide label, permit or PCO requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed).

Additional information will be available at the LHIB administration office.

LHI rat baiting program

As part of the LHIB Rat Control Program, information on the use of pesticides will be published in the LHIB Rat Baiting Schedule; the schedule is posted to the community as a householder and faxed or emailed to all guest lodges at the start of each calendar year for the following pesticide uses:

• bait rodenticides (where part of an ongoing program, first use of pesticide only).

The LHIB does not intend to provide further notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan.

3.4 Special measures for sensitive places

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

- school or pre-school;
- kindergarten;
- childcare centre;
- hospital;
- community health centre;
- nursing home;
- A place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

3.4.1 Playground

Although not specified as a sensitive area under the Regulation, the LHIB regards the playground as an area where members of the public who are most likely to be sensitive to pesticides (e.g. young children, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use this area regularly.

The LHIB aims to minimise pesticide use around playgrounds by using manual weed control methods (brush cutting, hand pulling) where possible.

Where required, the LHIB will continue to undertake spot applications of pesticides as described below as these are all very small doses in limited areas.

- bindii control through spot application of a selective herbicide. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required;
- grass control through spot application. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required; and
- ant control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide.
- Infestations in small areas are treated as required.

The notification arrangements for the Playground area will be undertaken in accordance with subsection 3.5 of this plan.

3.5 Prior notice of use of pesticide at a sensitive place and near a sensitive place

For sensitive places and the playground the LHIB will display an information sign in the general application area or main entrance 24 hours prior to pesticide application, at the time of the application and at least 24 hours after pesticide application.

Information on the forward program for broadscale and/or spot herbicide use will be published on the LHIB website or the Community Information Bulletin at least 24 hours prior to use, all guest lodges on the Island will be notified by fax or email at least 24 hours prior to application and the occupiers of the buildings and surrounding buildings that are within 20 meters of sensitive places (Map 1) will be provided with 24 hours prior notice via telephone, email or fax (whichever is most practicable) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot herbicide application;
- broadscale selective herbicides;
- broadscale non-selective herbicides;
- broadscale insecticides;
- fungicides; and
- ant bait control

For non-emergency reactive pesticide use in outdoor public places within 20 meters of sensitive places, the LHIB will provide notice shortly before use to any occupier of a building that is within 20 meters of sensitive places by telephone, fax, email or door-knock, depending upon what is practicable. An information sign will also be displayed in the general application area or main entrance at the time of the application and at least 24 hours after pesticide application.

If a pesticide must be used to deal with an emergency in outdoor public places to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), ants, phytophthora, Myrtle Rust or anything deemed to be a threat to public health, quarantine/biosecurity or the environment as determined by the LHIB and the use of pesticide is within 20 meters of a sensitive place, the LHIB will organise a door-knock, preferably at least 30 minutes before pesticide use, so people are aware that a pesticide is about to be used to deal with a pest infestation. The LHIB will display an information sign in the general application area or main entrance at the time of the application and at least 24 hours after pesticide application.

3.6 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places (that are not within 20 meters of sensitive 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), ants, phytophthora, Myrtle Rust or anything deemed to be a threat to public health, quarantine/biosecurity or the environment as determined by the LHIB, the LHIB will, where possible, provide notice immediately before use to any occupier of any residence that is within 20 meters of the emergency pesticide application/s, by telephone or door-knock or provide notice by placing signs nearby at the time of the application, depending upon what is practicable. If this is not possible, the LHIB will provide information at the LHIB administration office [02 6563 2066], or information can be obtained from the person applying the pesticide on site, if requested.

3.7 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places

Where the LHIB uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, the LHIB will ensure that notification is made in accordance with the notification requirements of this plan. Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on LHIB land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, the LHIB will still require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

3.8 Public places and pesticide use where the LHIB will not provide any notification

The LHIB will not provide notification in any of the following public places:

- public places that have been closed temporarily to the public where the closure is unrelated to the pesticide use [except for the playground and sensitive places];
- remote areas where there is little likelihood of pesticides being encountered by the public e.g. areas where there is no vehicular access and low public visitation;
- for spot and directed applications of pesticide at the Aerodrome fuel shed and the gravel piles adjacent to the airstrip and
- while carrying out weed control as part of the LHIB Weed Management Strategy. For aerial spot-spraying weeds and HBT refer to subsection 3.3.6 of this plan.

The LHIB does not intend to provide notice for such pesticide applications other than by way of this description in this plan.

In addition, the LHIB will not provide notification for the following pesticide uses in any of the public places it controls or owns:

• pesticides used in small quantities that are readily available at retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered.

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with Clause 20 (1) (h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticides use must include all 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 and approximate times on which, or the range of dates and approximate times 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; and
- a contact telephone number or email address for the officer whom a person can contact to discuss the notice.

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

As already noted, the LHIB website or Community Information Bulletin will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places with a reference to where this notification plan will be available to the public.

5. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

The LHIB will advise residents of this plan and its contents by:

- making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in the LHIB's administration office during office hours (0830 – 1630 Mon – Fri);
- placing a copy of the plan on the LHIB's website;
- placing a notice in the Community Information Bulletin;
- placing a notice in the local paper (The Signal) and
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

6. NOTIFICATION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF FINAL PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PLANS

A public authority that has prepared a final pesticide use notification plan must notify the Environment Protection Authority in writing that the plan has been finalised;

- Such notice must include a statement as to whether or not the plan is in accordance with Clauses 21 (1) (a)-(c) specifying the area in which the plan is to operate and where copies of the plan will be displayed; and
- Such notice must be given as soon as practicable after finalisation of the plan.

7. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 3 years. The review will include:

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

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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

Manager Environment/World Heritage or

Team Leader Compliance & Projects Lord Howe Island Board Lord Howe Island NSW 2898 Phone: 02 6563 2282 Fax: 02 6563 2127 Email: administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au

9. APPENDICES

See Map 1: Sensitive Places

