Roads and Maritime Services
Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Issue No: 2
### About this release

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<tr>
<td>Author:</td>
<td>Environment Branch</td>
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<td>Authorised by:</td>
<td>General Manager Environment</td>
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<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
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| 2.0   | January 2016 | General revision and changes made to:  
- Include notification requirements for maritime operations  
- Introduce the use of a Roads and Maritime ‘Approved Pesticide List’ and outline how notification will be provided for pesticides included on this list. |
| 1.0   | 4 January 2007 | Initial Plan |
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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to Roads and Maritime Services

Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) is a New South Wales statutory authority established on 1 November 2011 under the Transport Legislation Amendment Act 2011. Roads and Maritime brings together the former Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and NSW Maritime Authority. Legislation that Roads and Maritime administers can be found within its annual report, which may be downloaded from www.rms.nsw.gov.au.

At a glance, Roads and Maritime is the NSW State Government agency responsible for:

- Improving road and waterway safety
- Driver testing and issuing driver and boating licences
- Registering and inspecting vehicles and vessels
- Managing the road and waterways network to achieve consistent travel times
- Delivering new road and maritime infrastructure
- Maintenance of operational assets, including roads, roadsides, bridges, wharves, vessels and navigation aids.

Further details regarding Roads and Maritime infrastructure maintenance responsibilities are outlined in Attachment A.

1.2 Purpose of this Plan

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation).

This Plan supersedes the ‘RTA Pesticide Use Notification Plan’ published 4 January 2007.

The aim of this Plan is to explain how Roads and Maritime (including its contractors) will notify members of the community of its pesticide applications in outdoor public places.

The Plan allows members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

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 Roads and Maritime 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 Roads and Maritime’s notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wanting more information on the Plan.

1.3 Use of pesticides by Roads and Maritime

Roads and Maritime uses pesticides for the following purposes, on land which it owns or is responsible for to:

- Control weeds and pest animals
• Protect public property from pest damage
• Protect the uses of public places from nuisance or danger.

The majority of pesticides used by Roads and Maritime are herbicides for weed control. The pesticides used in public places by Roads and Maritime also include insecticides to control certain insect pests, termiticides to protect buildings and timber assets such as bridges and wharves and rodenticides to control rats.

Wherever possible, Roads and Maritime follows an integrated pest management program that aims to use best practice and cost effective techniques with minimal impacts on the environment.

Roads and Maritime selects from a variety of control techniques depending on the targeted pest species and the receiving environment.

Pesticides are one of the control techniques used in the Roads and Maritime integrated pest management program that are particularly effective for managing weeds and roadside vegetation in conjunction with mechanical control techniques. When used correctly, pesticides have minimal social and environmental impacts.

1.4 Public places covered by this Plan

Roads and Maritime applies pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places\(^1\) throughout NSW:

• Urban roads (including median strips, roadsides, roundabouts, traffic islands and some cycleways and footpaths)
• Freeways and controlled access roads\(^2\)
• Rural roadsides (including stockpile sites)
• Roadside rest areas (including truck parking bays)
• Motor registries – including buildings and surrounds, carparks and lawn/landscaping
• Administrative sites (such as regional and district offices)
• Depots and works centres
• Weigh stations and heavy vehicle inspection stations
• Rider/driver training schools
• Vacant lands owned by Roads and Maritime, including any built property
• Bridges
• Vehicular ferries
• Ferry wharves.

The main user groups of, and types of pesticide use in each public place category are summarised in Table 1.

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\(^1\) Roads and Maritime and local councils both have roadside maintenance responsibilities, as discussed within Attachment A

\(^2\) The Roads Act 1993 allows the Minister for Roads, by order published in the Gazette, to declare to be a “Controlled Access Road” any “main road” that is designed to facilitate the movement of motor traffic, and any road that joins such a main road. The Minister for Roads may also, by order published in the Gazette, declare to be a “main road” any public road or any other road that passes through public open space and joins a main road, highway, freeway, tollway, transitway or controlled access road.
### Table 1 - Pesticides applied by or for Roads and Maritime in public places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public places</th>
<th>Regular user group</th>
<th>Level of use of public place</th>
<th>Type of pesticide use</th>
<th>Application method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban roadsides, including: Median strips, Road shoulders, Kerb and guttering, Roadsides, Roundabouts, Traffic islands, Roadside cycleways/ footpaths, Land surrounding bridges, Traffic management devices, Landscaped areas, Noise walls</td>
<td>Pedestrians, vehicle drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists Employees and contractors</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides and fungicides</td>
<td>Hand held application (such as backpack sprayers) Boom equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled access roads</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freeways</td>
<td>Vehicle drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists Employees and contractors</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural roadsides (including stockpile sites)</td>
<td>Pedestrians, vehicle drivers/riders and passengers, cyclists Employees and contractors, Travelling/grazing stock</td>
<td>Low to medium (depending on location)</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road construction sites</td>
<td>Employees and contractors Government representatives</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Herbicides</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadside rest areas – including facilities such as: Picnic/BBQ areas, Toilets, Playgrounds</td>
<td>Visitors Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Highly variable and seasonal i.e. low to very high use³</td>
<td>Herbicides, insecticides, termiticides, fungicides and vertebrate baits</td>
<td>Hand held application Boom equipment Manual placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weigh stations and heavy vehicle inspection stations</td>
<td>Heavy vehicle drivers, employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high use (depending on location)</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor registries, including buildings and surrounding carparks, lawn and landscaping</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ Use of these public places peaks during weekends/holiday periods usually, when high to very high use occurs in places close to urban areas and along major state roads and national highways while less frequent use occurs in more remote areas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public places</th>
<th>Regular user group</th>
<th>Level of use of public place</th>
<th>Type of pesticide use</th>
<th>Application method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration sites, including regional and district offices</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depots and work centres</td>
<td>Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rider/driver training schools</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Medium to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant lands owned by Roads and Maritime, including built property</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>Hand held application (such as backpack, brush and drill/injection) Manual placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicular ferries and associated infrastructure</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferry wharves</td>
<td>General public Employees and contractors</td>
<td>Low to high</td>
<td>As above</td>
<td>As above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any of the public places as listed above that are located adjacent to a “sensitive place” (see Section 3.2.1).</td>
<td>Site specific – as identified for the public place categories listed above</td>
<td></td>
<td>Preference for manual means of pest control (such as mowing or slashing) or hand held application of pesticides (such as backpack, brush and drill/injection) where manual means is not feasible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **Pesticides used by Roads and Maritime**

2.1 **Pesticides commonly used by Roads and Maritime (Approved Pesticides)**

The majority of pesticides used by Roads and Maritime are herbicides for weed control (primarily glyphosate). Roads and Maritime has primarily used glyphosate to chemically control road side weeds. The long term use of this chemical alone can lead to weeds becoming resistant to glyphosate.

In 2013, Roads and Maritime engaged weed management specialists to review its weed management practices and recommend a broader range of chemical and non chemical weed management tactics to help minimise the incidence of pesticide resistance. As part of this review a list of approved herbicides has been developed for use in different situations. Selection of the most appropriate herbicide depends on the weed species to be controlled, location, topography, local climatic conditions and proximity to sensitive areas.


The “Approved Pesticides List” includes the following details:

- The active ingredient
- The purpose for which the pesticide is to be used
- The Work Health and Safety risk
- The mobility in soil
- The potential impact on aquatic species
- The off target potential impact
- Any notes for application.

2.2 **Pesticides not commonly used by Roads and Maritime**

Pesticides which are not commonly used by Roads and Maritime are those with an active ingredient not listed in the “Approved Pesticides List”. Roads and Maritime may be required to use a pesticide not documented on this list where, for example, herbicide resistance has developed.
3. Notification arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when Roads and Maritime will provide notice of its pesticide use.

Roads and Maritime has considered the following when determining these notification arrangements:

- Whether the substance being applied is an Approved Pesticide
- The level of use 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 (for example young children, sick, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use these areas
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides
- The type of pesticide used.

3.1 Areas excluded from notification

Roads and Maritime will not notify its use of pesticides in the following circumstances:

- The application is to occur on land which is not accessible by the public
- The application is to occur on land owned by Roads and Maritime and leased to another entity
- Where another public authority, including a Local Council, is to notify the application of pesticides
- In relation to the application of 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.
  - Example 1: small quantities (less than 20 litres of ‘ready-to-use’ spray mix) of glyphosate and metsulfuron herbicides applied by a hand-held applicator, or by cut-and-paint or stem injection techniques.
  - Example 2: minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols.

3.2 Areas to be notified

Notification must be in accordance with this Plan when each of the following is true:

- The land on which the pesticides are to be applied is accessible by the public; and
- The maintenance of the land on which the pesticides are to be applied is the responsibility of Roads and Maritime; and
- Roads and Maritime or its contractors apply pesticides on a piece of land.

Notification must also be in accordance with this Plan if Roads and Maritime or its contractors apply pesticides to land which is not within their control or ownership, and that land is immediately adjacent to land that is under Roads and Maritime’s control or ownership and there are no physical boundaries (such as fences) between the two pieces of land. Examples of such areas include roadside pesticide applications where Roads and Maritime and councils may own/control adjacent areas of land without any physical boundaries (such as fences).

3.2.1 Notification for a public place adjacent to a sensitive place

A “sensitive place” is defined in clause 18(b) of the Regulation to be any:

- School or pre-school
- Kindergarten
• Childcare centre
• Hospital
• Community health centre
• Nursing home
• Place declared to be a sensitive public place by the Environment Protection Authority by notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

Roads and Maritime prefers to use mechanical means of pest control (such as mowing or slashing) in a public place that is located adjacent to a sensitive place where feasible. Where mechanical means of pest control are not feasible, Roads and Maritime will apply pesticides by hand held equipment and notification will be provided as per section 3.2.2.

### 3.2.2 Notification for roadsides and prescribed public places other than roadsides

#### Approved Pesticides

The public will be notified of applications of Approved Pesticides in public places as listed in Section 1.4.

Vehicles used for spraying herbicides will display signs notifying that pesticide spraying is in progress and listing a contact number for further information.

When spraying at fixed sites such as rest areas, depots, bridges, or Heavy Vehicle Inspection Stations, portable signs will also be displayed in highly-visible locations, notifying that pesticide spraying is in progress and listing a contact number for further information. Signs will be displayed for the period that the spraying is in progress, unless the pesticide label requires a longer period.

Information that will be provided by the nominated contact (as listed on vehicle signs and fixed signs) will include:

- The full product name of the pesticide being used,
- The pesticide active ingredient, and
- The purpose for which the pesticide is being used.

Further information about the pesticide active ingredient, general warnings, purpose of application, soil persistence and mobility in soil, and potential impact on aquatic species will also be available to the public via the Approved Pesticides List published on the Roads and Maritime website (see Section 2.1).

#### Pesticides other than Approved Pesticides

If Roads and Maritime applies any pesticides which are not Approved Pesticides, notification will be provided:

- Prior to the application date in the ‘Forward Pesticide Notification Plan’ published on the Roads and Maritime website at [http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/environmental-compliance/weed-management-pesticide-use.html](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/environmental-compliance/weed-management-pesticide-use.html). This Plan is published every six months and sets out the pesticide applications proposed to be carried out by Roads and Maritime during the course of the next six months, together with the following information:
  - The full product name of the pesticide to be used
  - The purpose for which the pesticide is to be used
  - The localities in which this pesticide is to be used
  - The Regional Contact Officer for that locality

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4 Signs put up by Roads and Maritime are often removed or subjected to vandalism. While Roads and Maritime will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations.

5 Only general locations and periods of time may be listed on the Internet because pesticide application dates can change due to weather and other unplanned circumstances.
- 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.

- By signs displayed in a prominent place immediately prior to and during the application of the pesticide. The information to be displayed on the signs is as described above.

3.2.3 Notification of emergency pesticide applications

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

- Noxious weeds; and
- Biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents.

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

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

The information to be displayed on signs is as set out in Section 3.2.2.

3.3 Extended notification

When required by a pesticide label, permit or Pesticide Control Order, the signs referred to in section 3.2.2 may be maintained following completion of the pesticide application.

4. How will the community be informed of this Plan

Roads and Maritime will inform the public of this Plan by:

- Notice in at least one newspaper circulating generally in the State under clause 21(1)(a) of the Regulations
- Making a copy of the finalised Plan available at Roads and Maritime’s head office located at 101 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060

5. Future reviews of the Plan

As a minimum, this Plan will be reviewed every three years. The review will include:

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

6. Contact Details

Any queries regarding this Plan may be directed to:

Senior Environment Specialist, Sustainability
Roads and Maritime Services
Environment Branch

6 Signs put up by Roads and Maritime are often removed or subjected to vandalism. While Roads and Maritime will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations.
Any specific queries regarding pesticide applications should be directed in the first instance to the Roads and Maritime contact for your area. Contact details may be found at http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/environment/environmental-compliance/weed-management-pesticide-use.html
Attachment A

Road network responsibilities within NSW

Roads are managed in NSW on the basis of an administrative system of state, regional and local roads.

State roads comprise about 17,700 km of major arterial roads linking major centres and regions throughout the State and within major urban areas. The State Government, through Roads and Maritime, is responsible for the funding and management of state roads on a state-wide priority basis. State roads are capitalised as a Roads and Maritime asset.

About 3,100 km of state roads provide interstate links. These roads are identified by the federal government as part of the AusLink network, for which the federal government contributes funding.

Roads and Maritime is responsible for managing the full road reserve on those state roads which are designated as freeways.

Roads and Maritime’s responsibility for managing other state roads focuses on network development, asset renewal and road maintenance, but only in relation to the carriageway and associated roadway elements necessary in order to make provision for the state significance of the route. Roads and Maritime generally funds and manages the road formation and associated drains in rural areas, the main carriageway between kerbs in the Sydney area and the central lanes through towns elsewhere, including traffic lights, roundabouts, signs and line markings. Other works and activities that occur within road reserves, such as maintenance of footpaths and control of noxious weeds, are usually the responsibility of local government councils. Roads and Maritime has the power to regulate other works and activities on state roads in order to protect the road asset, facilitate efficient traffic movement and promote road safety.

Roads and Maritime maintains about 50 percent of state roads using its own workforce, with the remaining 45 percent and 5 percent maintained through contractual arrangements with councils and private contractors respectively.

About 18,500 km of regional roads provide routes of secondary importance, linking smaller towns to the state network and to each other. Councils are responsible for funding, determining priorities and carrying out works on these roads which are capitalised as council assets. The State Government, through Roads and Maritime, provides a significant level of funding assistance to local government for managing these roads.

Local roads comprise about 143,000 km of council controlled roads which provide for local circulation and access to adjoining properties. Councils maintain these roads using funds from their own resources as well as federal government funding. The State Government, through Roads and Maritime, also provide funding assistance for local roads in some circumstances.

Roads and Maritime provide assistance to councils for regional and local roads damaged in declared natural disasters, and allocates funds to councils under several road safety and traffic management programs.

Roads and Maritime are responsible for managing about 3,000 km of regional and local roads in the unincorporated area of NSW, where there is no local government council. It is also responsible for managing 188 State Asset bridges and ferries located on regional and local roads in view of their state significance.

There are other roads in NSW which are the responsibility of agencies other than councils and Roads and Maritime. These include crown roads (which are the responsibility of the Minister for Lands) and roads managed by State Forests, National Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority.

Further information on road infrastructure maintenance is available on Roads and Maritime’s Internet site at http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/key-build-program/maintenance/index.html
Maritime responsibilities within NSW

Roads and Maritime is responsible for administering land below mean high water mark in Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay, Newcastle Harbour and Port Kembla Harbour. It is also responsible for marine safety in State waters - specifically the regulation of commercial and recreational vessels and their operations and the protection of the environment in connection with the use of vessels in State waters. These functions include:

- Educating users on safe boating with a strong on-water presence
- Implementing boating safety policies, plans, regulations and enforcement
- Administering vessel moorings across the State
- Supporting recreational boating infrastructure across the State through grants from the Better Boating Program
- Administering maritime products such as moorings and aquatic licenses
- Enforcing boating related environmental laws
- Licensing all aquatic events
- Providing emergency response for oil spills under National Plan arrangements.
- Maintaining maritime assets including property, wharves and aids to navigation to benefit our customers and the users of the ferry network.