

PR 3 – Pesticides Spraying

1 Policy

Note - The use of the term 'pesticides' is generic and includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides etc.

1.1 Introduction

Similar to all Local Government Authorities in metropolitan and regional Western Australia, the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is responsible for the control of pests and weeds in buildings, structures and amenity areas under its control, such as road reserves, drainage easements, rights of way, public parks and gardens and other public open spaces.

Weed control is by far the largest part of the Shire's pest control program, and the use of herbicides is the most common control method used, either by appropriately trained staff or qualified spray contractors.

Pesticides are used to control noxious weeds, to protect public property from pest damage and to protect the users of public places from nuisance or danger.

1.2 Use of pesticides by Shire Staff or Contractors

All pesticide use by Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes staff and/or contractors engaged by the Shire is to be in conformity with the **'Guidelines for the Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces'** published by the Western Australian Department of Health and other State health agencies. The purpose of these Guidelines is to "provide practical guidance on the safe use of pesticides for the protection of human health, by assisting pesticide users to achieve a safe system of work and comply with relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation".

The 'Guidelines for the Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces' can be downloaded from the Western Australian Health Department website

Particular attention is drawn to Appendix 7 of the above Guidelines that addresses spraying in public places. This section applies to any person who uses and applies chemical products in public places and states:

- (i) You must only use chemical products that are registered or permitted for use on the target host.
- (ii) You must not apply a chemical product at variance with the label instructions, except in accordance with an authorised permit, or where it is applied at a lower rate, concentration or frequency than advised on the label.
- (iii) You should always use products that will do the job effectively. Where practicable, you should use those products that are least toxic to people and the environment.
- (iv) You must store chemical products in their original containers in a dry, well-ventilated area that is not easily accessible to children or animals. A source of water suitable for washing should be located nearby. Permanent stores must comply with the storage requirements of Australian Standard AS 2507.
- (v) When handling or using a product, you must be equipped with and wear the protective and safety equipment recommended on the product label, unless more effective exposure control methods are employed.
- (vi) You must not eat, drink or smoke while handling or using chemical products.

- (vii) You must maintain spray equipment in good operational order. You must not start maintenance until the equipment has been cleaned.
- (viii) You must not spray onto waterways or water bodies or water logged areas unless the product is approved for such use.
- (ix) When spraying, you must not allow a chemical product to move off target to the extent that it may adversely affect any people, their land, water, plants or animals. Areas of particular concern include schools, community halls, malls, parks and gardens.
- (x) You must maintain a record of spraying operations. Your records must at least include the date, location, name and rates of any chemical products applied – however you should check with the Western Australian Department of Health for the minimum requirements. These records must be made available to relevant authorities if requested.
- (xi) Where practicable, the spray supervisor should inform the public of impending spray operations, and notify them of current operations through the use of signage or whatever suitable means are available.
- (xii) You must stop spraying if a member of the public or other third party should approach the area being sprayed.
- (xiii) If you are approached by a member of the public with an inquiry or complaint, you should answer their questions or refer them to your supervisor. The public must be treated with courtesy at all times.

Having regard to some of the local conditions specific in the district of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, attention is drawn to the issues associated with weather conditions, particularly wind, and the consequences of spray drift when winds are too high to ensure contained spray techniques are used. The 'Guidelines for the Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces' do not stipulate a maximum wind speed for effective spray operations however the experience of parks and gardens staff of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes is that spraying should not occur in urban (residential, commercial, light industrial, etc zoned land) areas **when the wind speed is 15km/h or greater**. In non-urban areas the spray operator is to use discretion when spraying, paying particular regard to the potential spray drift onto adjoining properties.

1.3 Signage Requirements – Vehicles used for Spraying

When spraying on road verges or parks, a sign will be fixed to a vehicle which is involved with the application of the pesticide. Lettering must be a minimum of 50mm in height and should be placed on the vehicle so it is easy to see by road users. The sign is to have the words 'CAUTION: (NAME OF CHEMICAL) BEING APPLIED, trade name is acceptable or active constituent. A flashing yellow light is also to be fitted to the vehicle and be activated while the vehicle is moving.

An example of this signage is shown below:



1.4 Signage Requirements – Spraying in Parks or Similar Public Places

Whenever a liquid pesticide is being applied on a public place other than a road reserve or footpath (covered by signage requirements in Section 3 above), appropriate portable warning sign/s is displayed until the pesticide has dried on the leaf. Lettering on the sign must be a minimum of 50mm in height. The warning sign/s must display the words' CAUTION (NAME OF CHEMICAL) BEING APPLIED, AVOID CONTACT WITH AREA WHEN SIGN IS DISPLAYED. Trade name or active constituent may be used.

An example of this portable signage is shown below:



1.5 Spraying Near Sensitive Landuses

Where spraying is proposed for areas immediately adjacent to a child care centre, kindergarten, school, hospital, nursing home or Community Garden, contact is to be made with the manager, principal or director at least 48 hours prior to the time of the proposed spraying. This will allow for arrangements for the management of those places to be put in place in the event of any concerns those facilities may have with the proposed spraying.

1.6 Requests for Non-Pesticide Use of Section of road Reserve Adjacent to Private Property

The Shire is aware that some people have a philosophical opposition to the use of pesticides and on their own property these people will use a number of alternative weed management techniques such as hand weeding, steaming, etc.

Often these same people will request the Shire not to use pesticides for weed control on the section of road reserve adjacent to their property. The Shire is prepared to accommodate such requests subject to the property owner committing to undertake alternative forms of weed control that achieve the same results that would be achieved by the Shire spraying the subject land with pesticides.

Applications for non-pesticide use of a section road reserve adjacent to private property are to be made in writing, stipulating the alternative forms of weed control within the subject section of road reserve to be utilised by the applicant. Subject to the Shire being satisfied that the proposed alternative methods will achieve a satisfactory level of weed control approval can be granted.

Signage will be provided and installed (in the form of a yellow post and “No Spraying” wording) by the Shire at the cost of the resident for placing on the road verge adjacent to the side boundaries of the property, as a secondary precaution against spraying adjacent to the residence or workplace. The maintenance and replacement (if damaged, stolen, et) of the signage will be the responsibility of the resident.

In the event of the Shire being dissatisfied with the outcomes of the alternative forms of weed control correspondence to that effect will be forwarded to the property owner seeking a review of the approval.

Where such a property is located outside the urban area and has a long frontage to the road the need for additional signage will be considered on a case by case basis.

2 Applicable Legislation and Documents

Statutory Power <i>(Acts, Regulations, Local Laws, TPS)</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s.2.7(2)(b) – The council is to determine the local government’s policies <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> <i>Part VIIA Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911</i> <i>Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022</i> <i>Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011</i> <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013</i>
Shire Policies	N/A
Related Documents	Guidelines for the Use of Pesticides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces Australian Standard AS 2507-1998 – The storage and handling of agricultural and veterinary chemicals
Related Procedure	N/A

3 Administration

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