

Revised Plan 2 - Final

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

October 2012

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* (the Regulation). The Plan sets out how Sydney Ports Corporation (Sydney Ports) will notify members of the community of pesticide application it makes or allows to be made in public places that it owns or controls.

The Plan is intended to inform the community how to avoid or minimise contact and exposure to pesticides in use on public places under Sydney Ports' control as they wish.

The Plan describes which Sydney Ports public places have pesticides in use, the users or visitors to these public places, how and when these pesticides are used, the application methods, and the level of notification which will be used by Sydney Ports. In addition, the Plan will outline how and where the community can access the Plan, notification arrangements, future review of the Plan and contact details for further information.

Sydney Ports is a State-owned Corporation, established in 1995 under the *Ports Corporatisation and Waterways Management Act 1995* to bring greater commercial and customer focus to the management of international shipping and port operations in Sydney. Sydney Ports owns and manages the principal commercial ports of Sydney Harbour, Botany Bay, Eden and Yamba. Activities such as cargo handling and stevedoring are generally undertaken by tenants operating on Sydney Ports land. Sydney Ports also operates two cruise ship terminals located in Sydney Harbour. Further information about Sydney Ports and the areas it manages is available from www.sydneyports.com.au

1.2 Limitations of the Plan

The Plan will not include information on how notice will be provided to the community of pesticide use in the **interiors** of the Sydney Ports' buildings.

The use of pesticides in Sydney Ports' buildings is usually conducted at times when the public does not have access within these buildings. The Plan shall only include Sydney Ports controlled areas to the **external** public places surrounding these buildings.

The buildings interiors not included in the Notification Plan are:

1. Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT), Circular Quay
2. Bond One, Walsh Bay
3. Sydney Ports Operations Centre (SPOC), Port Botany

It should also be noted that the majority of Sydney Ports' properties under its control have no potential for legal public access and are not considered to be public places. Access ways to such properties are signposted and/or fenced off, indicating that entry is only for Sydney Ports business and restricting the general public from accessing the site.

This includes access roads or paths to or within Sydney Ports controlled properties, as these areas are restricted to the general public and therefore not considered to be public places.

The Plan does not cover public places outside the boundary of its properties, in particular adjacent public areas which are beyond the property boundaries.

2 Pesticide Use

2.1 General

Sydney Ports and its maintenance contractors use pesticides on Sydney Ports controlled facilities and public places to manage weeds, termites, insects and pests. This is performed to protect public property, the environment and the community who use the Sydney Ports public places.

2.2 Public Places Covered by the Plan

Sydney Ports proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places under its ownership or control:

- Public land owned or controlled by Sydney Ports, including:
 - Places of interest
 - Roads or other easements legally accessible to the public
 - Public places external to Sydney Ports buildings

Table 1 includes a list of specific locations covered by this plan.

2.3 Pesticide Applications

Sydney Ports has identified the following modes of pesticide application used on its public place properties:

1. Weed spraying (Herbicide) – Spot Spraying
2. Weed spraying (Herbicide) – Mass Spraying
3. Rodent and feral animal baits
4. Termite control
5. Insecticides

Descriptions of the methods of application are provided below.

Herbicide Spot Weed Spraying

This process involves light intermittent spraying of weeds using a small controlled amount of commonly available household pesticide products such as “Roundup”. This sport spraying is usually undertaken on smaller areas where weeds are found in small clusters.

Herbicide Mass Weed Spraying

The difference between spot weeding and mass weeding is that this process requires larger more dense areas of weed to be sprayed using a backpack system. Typical application is for Bitou Bush control. Chemical weed sprays such as “Roundup – Bi Active” and “Yates White Oil” are used for such applications.

Rodent and Feral Animal Baits

Depending on the premises and the type of rodents, Sydney Ports’ contractors use three types of baits in encapsulated traps. The traps are predominantly used external to buildings, usually in gardens. Depending on the application, the product baits used are:

1. Talon XT Pro
2. Pindone
3. Foxoff 1080

The use of the Pindone and Foxoff 1080 are both applied under licensed conditions and primarily applied in areas that are inaccessible to the public, although they may be applied on some occasions in public places.

Termite Control

Termites are treated with either baits or enclosed treatments, using industrially available products. These treatments may require application by specialist licensed contractors. Typical treatments are applied to timber wharfs and piers where termite activity has been detected. The termite treatments largely depend on the level of activity and its direct application. The concentrations of these chemical based treatments, again, largely depend on specific application. The commonly used products include:

1. Termidor Dust
2. Biflex Duo 200

Insecticides

As per the application and concentration of chemical treatments used, the application of the insecticides largely depends on the type of pest and the environment. Sydney Ports' contractors use the following commercial insecticide products:

1. Yates White Oil
2. Cislin
3. Maxforce Insecticide and Cockroach Gel
4. Advion Gel
5. Dragnet Dust
6. Enviromax
7. Tempo Residual

2.4 Use in Community

The level of community use, categories of regular user groups and types of pesticide used in each of the public places is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Summarised Community and Pesticide Use in Sydney Ports Public Places

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of Use of Place	Type of Pesticide Use
OPT, Sydney Harbour (external and internal common areas)	Passengers, restaurant patrons, venue goers, visitors	Very high on ship days and holidays/ weekends. Medium otherwise	Herbicide/ pesticide and insecticides

Molineux Point Prince of Wales Drive, Port Botany – Viewing platform and footpaths	Walkers, sightseers, fishers, cyclists, general recreational activities.	Medium use and can become higher on weekends and holidays.	Insecticides, termite control and pesticide/ herbicides
Port Botany roads – Charlotte Road, Fishburn Road, Penrhyn Road, Simblast Road, Foreshore Road, and Friendship Road.	Walkers, cyclists, workers, truck drivers, contractors, general recreational activities.	Medium to high use, depending on public access to each of the roads.	Insecticides, herbicide/ pesticides and pest baits.
Port Botany Boat Ramp, amenities and car parks – Boat Ramp car park and Mill Stream car park	Walkers, fishers, cyclists, plane spotters, general recreational activities	Medium use, can become high on weekends and holidays.	Herbicide/ pesticides and insecticides
Penrhyn Estuary shared path and bird hide lookout, Port Botany	Walkers, bird watchers, cyclists, general recreational activities	Low - Medium use, can become higher on weekends and holidays	Herbicide/ pesticides.
SPOC car park and external areas	Port visitors, contractors, community members for meetings	Low public use	Insecticides and herbicides/ pesticides.
World War II Monument, Glebe Island	Historical interest groups, walkers, general recreational activities	Low use	Herbicides
White Bay, Roberts Road	Local residents, walkers, general recreation activities	Medium use although higher in warm weather	Herbicides
Eden Port, external areas	Port visitors, walkers	Low use	Herbicides

Other areas which may become part of Sydney Ports' property portfolio in the future would be treated with similar methods and similar notification requirements as set out in this Plan.

3 Notification Arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when Sydney Ports will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

3.1 Pesticide Applications

The notification requirements are based on Sydney Ports' assessment of a number of factors relating to the applications, which are outlined below.

- **Spot Weed Spraying:** is a controlled intermittent process which is executed in normally calm prevailing weather conditions. The need for signposting and notification in Sydney Ports' public places for this activity is generally not undertaken due to the controlled spraying conditions and low quantities used. Applications where a combination of spot and mass weed spraying is used will utilise temporary advisory signs. Sydney Ports considers the risk of contact or exposure of herbicides used on its public places for spot weeding is likely to be limited, as small quantities of common household herbicides are used.
- **Mass Weed Spraying:** is a controlled process to address greater areas of weeds, and due to the larger areas treated, and the higher risk for the public to come in contact with the herbicide, notification in the form of a temporary sign shall be undertaken.
- **Rodent and pest baits:** are controlled bait traps with low risk of contact with the public. These traps contain and encapsulate the bait and Sydney Ports considers these traps to be of low risk to the community, as the public would have limited contact or exposure to the rodenticide chemical used in these traps. Permanent, generic signposting will be displayed permanently advising that rodenticides exist on Sydney Ports property. In the case of Foxoff 1080 and Pindone rabbit bait, appropriate notice is posted with council/local papers and on site both before and after the application as required by licence conditions.
- **Termite Control:** is conducted by licensed contractors and operators. The treatments are usually performed after normal business hours and most treatments use encapsulated traps or controlled treatment using "core hole & plug" processes where dust is injected into a borehole within the timber and immediately plugged up. Due to the limited accessibility of such traps and treatments to the public, no notification is provided.
- **Insecticides:** particularly spider and cockroach treatments including chemical application, usually inside Sydney Ports controlled buildings, which is outside the scope of the Sydney Ports Plan. However, intermittent "as required" external treatments to some buildings and lookout areas may be required to treat cockroaches and redback spiders etc. For these applications, notification is not required, but the contractor will give verbal warning to any person within the nearby vicinity.
- **Emergency Pesticide Applications:** Where disease or pest outbreak requires immediate action to prevent damage, or in cases where emergency pesticide application are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites to rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard), or with plague animals, notice will be provided by temporary signage.

3.2 How and When Notice Will Be Provided

For public Sydney Ports controlled landscaped areas, open spaces, road verges and reserves, temporary notice of mass weed spraying and chemical treatment for spiders and cockroaches shall be displayed by temporary signposting of the site at the time and in the area that the pesticides are

being applied. The sign posting shall be either installed by Sydney Ports' staff and or by the Sydney Ports Pest Management Contractor. The signs shall remain during in place during the treatments.

Permanent signposting will be displayed that rodenticides exist on the Sydney Ports property. The use of Foxoff 1080 and Pindone rabbit bait requires appropriate notice posted with council/local papers and on site both before and after the application.

For emergency pesticide applications, signposting notice will be provided during the period of the pesticide application and for a period of one week after its completion. Due to the nature of the emergency application it would not be possible to provide prior notice.

3.3 Public Places Where No Notice Will Be Provided

Internal areas of any Sydney Ports controlled buildings, in particular the OPT, SPOC and Bond One are not included in the scope of the Sydney Ports Plan. Likewise, restricted areas of Sydney Ports' properties at Glebe Island, White Bay, Port Botany, Eden and Yamba Ports are excluded because of the lack of public access.

As discussed above, no notice is provided for spot weed spraying and the use of termite traps or treatments.

3.4 What Information Will Be Provided

In accordance with clause 11L(2)(g) of the *Pesticides Regulation*, where required, prior and temporary notification signs of pesticide use will include the following information:

- The full product name of the pesticide to be used,
- The purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest/s are being treated,
- The proposed date/s or date range of the pesticide use,
- The places where the pesticide is to be used,
- The contact details of the Sydney Ports officer who people can contact to discuss the notice, and
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if specified on the pesticide product label or the APVMA¹ permit.

3.5 How the Community Will Be Informed of the Plan

Sydney Ports will advise the community of the Plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the Plan available for viewing, free of charge, at its main office at Level 4, 20 Windmill Street, Walsh Bay
- Placing a copy of the Plan on its website at: www.sydneyports.com.au
- Sending a copy to community representatives on the various community committees that Sydney Ports runs
- Placing a notice in appropriate local newspapers
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette

¹ The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), the national government body responsible for assessing and registering (or otherwise approving) all pesticide products in Australia and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

4 Future Reviews of the Plan

The Plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of addendum of the Plan. The review will include:

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

The review report of the previous Plan (February 2007) can be found in Appendix A.

A revised Plan will be prepared based on any changes to operations, requirements and community feedback during the 5 year period. The revised Plan will be available to the community for consultation prior to finalisation.

5 Contact Details

Sydney Ports Maintenance Manager

Address: Level 4, 20 Windmill Street, Walsh Bay

Post: PO Box 25, Millers Point, NSW 2000

Phone: 02 9296 4999

Fax: 02 9296 4742

Email: enquiries@sydneyports.com.au

Website: www.sydneyports.com.au

Appendix A – Review of the 2007 Sydney Ports Pesticide Notification Plan

Background

Under the *Pesticides Regulation 1995* (the Regulation) Sydney Ports Corporation (Sydney Ports) must develop a Pesticide Notification Plan (the Plan) to notify members of the community of pesticide application it makes or allows to be made in public places that it owns or controls. The first Plan was produced in 2007.

The Plan is required to be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of addendum of the Plan. This review report is intended to help develop the next Plan due to be prepared in 2012.

Implementation

Sydney Ports have implemented the Plan (2007) over the past five years with good results. Pesticide contractors and Sydney Ports' internal maintenance staff have followed the Plan in the application of pesticides to its publically accessible owned land, most notably the Overseas Passenger Terminal, Glebe Island, White Bay and roads around Port Botany.

With the acquisition of additional land at Port Botany due to the port expansion project, the protocols contained within this Plan have been generally applied accordingly.

Sydney Ports' have not received any negative comments or complaints from members of the public regarding the use of pesticides on its publically accessible land.

Consultation and Feedback

Sydney Ports' have not received any feedback or complaints on the Plan and its implementation since 2007.

Consultation with community members was undertaken before the revised Plan was finalised. The draft Plan was provided for comment to our community representatives on the Glebe Island/White Bay Community Liaison Group and the Port Botany Neighbourhood Liaison Group. No comments or feedback were received. The plan will also be provided on the Sydney Ports' website for comment.

Recommendations for alterations

Sydney Ports has gained a number of additional areas since 2007 when the Plan was written. It is recommended that the revised Plan include any public places at the following new areas:

- Port Botany – as a result of the Port Botany Expansion project
- Eden Port – handed over to Sydney Ports after the dissolution of NSW Maritime
- Yamba Port – handed over to Sydney Ports after the dissolution of NSW Maritime

Likewise, Sydney Ports has sold parcels of land and these areas (such as the Barangaroo precinct) should be removed from the Plan as they are no longer under the control of Sydney Ports.

It is also recommended that the Plan be updated as soon as possible should Sydney Ports' land ownership change in the future, not just during the five year required review.