

Procedure P006

Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2021-2025

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1 INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLAN

PROCEDURE INFORMATION

Date Adopted by Council: 22 April 2021	Resolution No.: 21/031
Document Responsibility General Manager	
Review Timeframe Four years	
Last Review 21 August 2015	Next Scheduled Review April 2025

DOCUMENT HISTORY

DOCUMENT NO.	DATE AMENDED	SUMMARY OF CHANGES
1.0	10 February 2021	Approved by MANEX for public exhibition

FURTHER DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND RELATIONSHIPS

Related Legislation	Pesticides Regulation 2017
Related Policies	
Related Procedures, Protocols, Statements and Documents	

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3 INTRODUCTION

This pesticide use notification plan (the plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Pesticides Regulation 2017 (the Regulation). The plan details how Goldenfields Water will notify the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public areas that are owned or controlled by Goldenfields Water.

The main aim of the plan is to ensure the community is aware of pesticide applications made to outdoor public places that are owned or controlled by public authorities. The plan allows for members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. Goldenfields Water will ensure that pesticides are applied in a safe and responsible manner, therefore minimising harm to the community and/or the environment. The plan also sets out how Goldenfields Water will notify members of the community of pesticide applications made by Goldenfields Water.

The plan describes:

- What public places are covered by the plan;
- What public places are not covered by the plan;
- Who regularly uses these public places, and an estimate of the level of use;
- How and when Goldenfields Water will provide the community with information about its pesticide applications in public places;
- How the community can access the plan and obtain more information about Goldenfields Water's notification arrangements;
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted; and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss the plan with Goldenfields Water.

4 OVERVIEW OF PESTICIDE USE

Goldenfields Water utilise best practice techniques using safe and responsible procedures, aiming to have a minimal effect on the environment. Pesticide use by Goldenfields Water consists of applying herbicides for weed control and spot spraying of insecticides to control outbreaks as required in and around roadsides, pipeline easements, and at infrastructure sites such as pump stations and reservoirs.

There is no set frequency intervals for programmed pesticide application. Bait insecticides and rodenticides may be used infrequently for termite and vermin control to protect Goldenfields Water infrastructure and assets.

Goldenfields Water only uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate invasive, nuisance and environmental weeds, and to protect public property from pest damage.

5 PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Goldenfields Water proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls in the Local Government Areas of Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora, and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hilltops, and Narrandera. As a County

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Council, the preceding Local Government Areas are deemed constituent councils of Goldenfields Water.

Appendix A contains a map which shows Goldenfields Water's area of operations.

Goldenfields Water's estimate of the level of community use, and regular user groups for each of these public place categories is summarised below:

Public Places	Regular User Groups	Level of use	Type of pesticide use	Pesticide use notification
Unfenced pipeline utility or other easements accessible to the public	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors General public	Low	Spot spraying of herbicides and insecticides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs
Water pump stations and surrounds (secured)	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors	Low	Spot spraying of herbicides and insecticides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs
Water reservoirs and surrounds (secured)	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors	Low	Spot spraying of herbicides and insecticides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs
Water pump stations and surrounds (accessible to the public)	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors Local residents	Low	Spot spraying of herbicides and insecticides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs
Water reservoirs and surrounds (accessible to the public)	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors Local residents	Low	Spot spraying of herbicides and insecticides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs
Goldenfields Water buildings (depots and interiors of public buildings)	Goldenfields Water employees and contractors Visitors General public	High for interiors of public buildings Low for depots	Spot spraying of herbicides	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisements • Website • Signs

6 PUBLIC PLACES NOT COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Places that do not have public access will not be covered by this plan. These may include:

- Private property;
- Reservoirs, pump stations and treatment plants not accessible to the public; and

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- Goldenfields Water land that isn't designated for public use.

Goldenfields Water does not intend to provide notification when using small quantities of herbicides (less than 20L of mixed product) that are widely available to the public from retail outlets and can be used for domestic purposes. This will also apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol cans.

Goldenfields Water will not provide notification where there is little risk to the public in encountering pesticides where motorised or non-motorised equipment is used and there is no risk of drift or off target damage occurring.

7 NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the plan describes how and when Goldenfields Water will provide notice of pesticide use in public places. These notification arrangements are based on Goldenfields Water's assessment of:

- The level of public place usage where pesticides may be used.
- The extent to which members of the public who may be sensitive to pesticides 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, and
- The type of pesticide used.

7.1 How and when notice will be provided

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

- Onsite signage; or
- Information on Goldenfields Water's website.

Goldenfields Water will also allow persons and organisations to nominate to have their details placed on a central register which would allow them to be notified of certain types of pesticide uses in particular places, as described in this section of the plan.

Goldenfields Water will not provide notification for such pesticide applications, other than by way of this description in this plan (or general information on the Goldenfields Water website), where small quantities of some pesticides that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). This will apply to minor control of indoor and outdoor insect pests using baits or aerosol spray cans and spot weed control using a wand or hand held spray bottle or backpack apparatus.

Examples where no notice will be provided are:

- Spot spraying of weeds;
- Minor insecticide, rodenticide applications; and
- For emergency control (including wasps and bees).

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Goldenfields Water will not give notice of pesticide use by lessees of Goldenfields Water owned land that remain a public place.

7.2 Unforeseen Circumstances

To the weather and operational constraints, scheduled pesticide application may be delayed or brought forward from the scheduled program dates. In this instances, notification would be given as soon as possible, and likely to only involve signage displayed at the application site to notify members of the public.

Where emergency pesticide use is required, Goldenfields Water will, where possible, provide notice by posting signage nearby at the time of application.

7.3 What information will be provided

In accordance with the Regulation, notice of pesticide use will include the following:

- Full product name
- Purpose of use, including pest being treated
- Proposed date/s or date range of application
- Contact phone number of the Goldenfields Water representative that people can contact to discuss the notice;
- Warnings for re-entry to, or use of the place.

7.4 Sensitive places

The Regulation defines a sensitive place to be any:

- School, pre-school or kindergarten;
- Childcare centre;
- Hospital;
- Community health centre;
- Nursing home;
- Any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority; and
- Any place registered on constituent council's chemical sensitive register.

Special notification measures apply for programmed herbicide use in public places at or adjacent to sensitive places. All due care will be taken to inform the public in and around the sensitive area before and during the application of pesticides.

Locations of sensitive places can be obtained from the relevant constituent council.

7.5 Pesticide contractors

Where Goldenfields Water uses contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, Goldenfields Water will ensure that notification is made in accordance with this plan.

8 HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

Goldenfields Water will advise the public of this plan and its contents over a four week period by:

- Placing a copy of the draft plan on the Goldenfields Water website (www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au) or a notice in a local newspaper; and

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- Making a copy of the draft plan available, free of charge, for public viewing at Goldenfields Water's main office, 84 Parkes Street, Temora NSW 2666.

At the end of the four week consultation period all reasonable submissions will be considered.

9 FUTURE REVIEWS OF THIS PLAN

The plan will be current for a maximum period of four years. Prior to the expiration date, the review will include:

- Placing the revised plan on public exhibition, and calling for public submissions;
- After review and consideration of public submissions, making recommendations for alterations (if applicable) to the plan; and
- Finalising the plan.

10 GIVING NOTICE OF FINALISED PLAN

Goldenfields Water will advise the public of this plan and its contents by:

- Placing a copy of the finalised plan on the Goldenfields Water website (www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au) or a notice in a local newspaper; and
- Making a copy of the plan available for public viewing at Goldenfields Water's main office, 84 Parkes Street, Temora NSW 2666.

11 CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact Goldenfields Water to discuss the plan or to obtain details of pesticide application in public places, should contact:

Operations Manager
Goldenfields Water
PO Box 220
Temora NSW 2666
Phone: 02 6977 3200
Email: office@gwcc.nsw.gov.au
Website: www.gwcc.nsw.gov.au

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APPENDIX A – GOLDENFIELDS WATER AREA OF OPERATIONS

