

LORD HOWE ISLAND BOARD PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN



Photo. Courtesy Jack Shick

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PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (PUNP) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (the Regulation). The PUNP sets out how the Lord Howe Island Board (LHIB) will notify members of the community of pesticide applications it makes or allows to be made to public places that it owns or controls.

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 act to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. The 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;
- contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with the LHIB; and
- special protection measures that will be taken if the pesticide is proposed to be used adjacent to a sensitive place.

The LHIB uses pesticides in public places when necessary to eliminate weeds, insects/invertebrate and vertebrate pests, to protect public places and LHIB built and environmental assets from pest damage, protect and enhance the Islands World Heritage value and to protect the users of public places from nuisance and danger.

The majority of pesticides used by the LHIB consists of applying herbicides for weed control, insecticides for insect control, placing rodenticides in locked bait stations for a rodent incursion and applying fungicides to treat Phytophthora and Myrtle Rust.

LHIB pest and weed management programs aim to use best practice techniques; that is, methods that are target-specific, humane and cost-effective. This often requires an integration of a range of control methods.

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 (off Lagoon Road);
- 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
- other lands accessible to the public.

Most pesticide use by LHIB consists of applying herbicides for weed control and the use of registered chemical products to control pest animals. Minor uses of other pesticides include but are not limited to applying insecticides to control certain insect pests, termiticides to protect buildings, fungicides to control pathogens, and rodenticides to control rodents. The public places, main user groups and the frequency of use, along with the types of pesticides used are summarised in the following table.

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 and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Picnic areas	 local residents visitors children young families 	High (particularly on weekends, public holidays and school holidays)	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity

Table 1 Regular user groups, level of use of public places, and types of pesticides used in public places controlled or managed by LHIB.

Public places Controlled by the LHIB	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
Vacant Crown Iand	 local residents visitors children young families general recreational users (e.g. bushwalkers, joggers, bird watchers, dog-walkers) 	High	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
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 and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
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 and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity Heli-lance spray operations, UAV and HBT for controlling weeds on cliffs
Road verges and road reserves	 local residents or visitors walking or driving on the road 	Low to Medium	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity

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 and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Drains	local residents or visitors who walk or drive past a drain	Low to Medium	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
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 and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Backup Generator Site	local residents and people who work in the area	Low	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Public Toilet grounds	 local residents visitors children young families 	Low to Medium	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity

Public places Controlled by the LHIB	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide use
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 and broad scale herbicides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Interiors of public buildings	 community associations general members of the public local residents visitors children young families 	High	 spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
Former LHIB Nursery	 general members of the public local residents visitors children young families 	Low to Medium	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control termiticides fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity
LHIB Waste Management Facility	 LHIB staff local residents and people who work in the area visitors 	Very high (frequent use by multiple users)	 spot and broad scale herbicides spot insecticides ant bait control fungicides to treat phytophthora and myrtle rust rodent baits in locked stations for a rodent incursion and biosecurity

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.

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

Pesticide notification can be made by a number of means including but not limited to:

- placement of signs;
- information in the LHIB website;
- letters, Householders, fax and email;
- door knocking;
- telephone contact;
- information on the LHIB notice boards; and
- information in the local newspaper (Signal);

Two Householders per year will notify which pesticides the LHIB may use.

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 in sections 3.2 - 3.5:

3.2 Application types

<u>Spot application</u> of pesticides is using a backpack or hand-held applicator (e.g. spray can, spray pack & granular bait spreaders) delivering a low volume in a restricted area. Examples include control of grass and annual weeds around infrastructure, spot spraying environmental weeds, spreading granulated ant bait or fungicide for phytophthora control, spraying fungicides to eradicate Myrtle Rust, basal bark, stem injection and cut and paint applications for woody weed control. 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 using a splatter gun or preparing broad scale revegetation sites with quick spray unit.

<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 paint ball marker 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.

<u>Rodenticide baits</u> are to be used within locked bait stations according to APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions or used in accordance with label.

<u>Broad scale 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).

From time to time pesticides will be applied in accordance with a current APVMA Permit. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of Rodenticide baits under a APVMA permit. A list of current permits relevant to Lord Howe Island can be found on the APVMA permit search page by typing Lord Howe into the keyword search: https://portal.apvma.gov.au/permits

3.3 Application areas

a) Outdoor recreation areas, cemetery and roads, road reserves, utility or other easements accessible to the public

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;
- sporting fields and ovals; and
- cemeteries, roads, road reserves, utility or other easements accessible to the public.

In these public places, 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 requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and
- rodenticide baits to be used within locked bait stations according to the label or APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions. This includes the use of rodenticide baits for in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

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

b) 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 Pesticide Control Order requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and
- rodenticide baits to be used within locked bait stations according to the label or APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions. This includes the use of rodenticide baits for in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

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

For aerial spot-spraying and HBT walking tracks will be closed in accordance with subsection 3.3. (f) of this plan.

c) Camping grounds

Camping may be permitted only with approval of the LHIB at North Bay within the LHI Permanent Park Preserve (PPP). Pesticide use at the North Bay camping area will have signs 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 requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and
- rodenticide baits to be used within locked bait stations according to the label or APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions. This includes the use of rodenticide baits for in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

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

d) Airport and airstrip

Pesticide use at the LHI Airport terminal and airstrip, occupiers will be given verbal notice of scheduled pesticide use and information on pesticide use will have signs 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 requires a longer period of signage, this will be followed) for the following pesticide uses:

- spot and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and

• rodenticide baits - to be used within locked bait stations according to the label or APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions. This includes the use of rodenticide baits for in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

Pesticide application at the LHI Airport terminal and airstrip will only occur before, after or between scheduled flights.

e) 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 and include houses, the community hall, LHIB administration building and depot, powerhouse, Waste Management Facility. For these buildings, occupiers will be given verbal notice prior to the scheduled pesticide use. Signs notifying the use of pesticides will be displayed at the entrance to the buildings, property or treatment area 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 and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and
- rodenticide baits to be used within locked bait stations according to the label or APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions. This includes the use of rodenticide baits for in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

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

f) 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>: A Householder will be circulated at least one week prior to any helicopter weed operations. 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 when the helicopter if flying. This is required to maintain public and air safety. Signs will be displayed at track heads from early morning 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.

Rodent baiting

Baiting for rodents using approved rodenticides will be conducted in accordance with the APVMA permit for rodent incursions and used in accordance with the label for use in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring. A list of APVMA current permits can be found on the APVMA permit search page by typing Lord Howe into the keyword search: <u>https://portal.apvma.gov.au/permits</u>

Records of rodenticide purchase, use and tracking are kept in a register with the LHIB (ED22/2794).

The LHIB will not 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 39 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 and weed control through spot application. Minor infestations in small areas are treated as required; and
- ant, termite and insect control is occasionally undertaken through spot application of an insecticide.
- Baiting for rodents using approved rodenticides will be conducted in accordance with the APVMA permit for rodent incursions and used in accordance with label for use in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring (e.g. toilets).
- 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 broad scale and/or spot herbicide use will be published on the LHIB website or distributed via Householder at least 24 hours prior to use 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 and broad scale herbicide application;
- spot and broad scale insecticides;
- fungicides;
- termiticides;
- ant bait control;
- bird control; and
- rodenticide baits to be used within locked bait stations according to APVMA permit conditions for rodent incursions and used in accordance with label for use in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring.

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.

3.6 NOTIFICATION OF EMERGENCY PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to deal with pests that pose an immediate health hazard or pests that are 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. This notice will be given to occupiers of any residences that are within approximately 20 meters of the emergency pesticide application/s or sensitive place, 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.

Notification for placement of rodenticide baits in locked stations in public places for the purpose of implementing a rodent incursion will provide warning notices for settlement owners of pets and for livestock owners by means of distributing a Householder and placing a notice on the Boards website 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 LEASEES 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

At times the LHIB uses small quantities of some pesticides that are readily available at retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered. 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.
- for small quantities of glyphosate and metsulfuren herbicides by hand held applicator, cut and paint or stem injection techniques;
- minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using various baits or insecticides applied by aerosols, a knapsack, hand held applicator or by injection techniques.
- rodenticide baits are used in accordance with label for use in and around buildings for biosecurity monitoring

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

4. WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED

In accordance with Clause 41 (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;
- distributing a Householder;
- placing a notice in the local paper (The Signal) and
- placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.
- the Environmental Protection Authority will also be formally notified of this plan.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years. The review may 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.

7. 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:

Team Leader World Heritage Lord Howe Island Board Lord Howe Island NSW 2898 Phone: 02 6563 2066 Fax: 02 6563 2127 Email: administration@lhib.nsw.gov.au

8. APPENDICES

See Map 1: Sensitive Places

Map 1 Sensitive Places



Lord Howe Island Board Pesticide Use Notification Plan – April 2022