



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

TITLE:	INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	SUPERVISOR PARKS AND RESERVES AND BUILDING MANAGER
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1. INTRODUCTION

Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) is a systematic approach for the management of pests based on the long-term prevention and suppression by use of a wide range of methods. This approach includes the control/eradication of pest plant and animals including ants, bees and wasps, birds, silverfish, earwigs, cockroaches, flies, rodents, and environmental weeds. Council is responsible for pest management across a range of natural environments, maintained public open spaces, roadsides and buildings. It should be Council’s policy to practice IPM for the buildings and grounds they own/manage.

Methods used should be cost effective, with due respect of long term outcomes, while taking account of the risks to both community health and the environment. Pest impacts can range from a simple nuisance, to accounting for financial loss or a catalyst for significant health problems. They can cause structural damage to buildings, economic losses through food contamination, diminished aesthetics as well as other impacts. Implementing the appropriate IPM can also avoid and/or minimise various risks associated with pests, and their control by the use of pesticides and herbicides.

Council staff and contractors should be trained or required as a component of their contract to select the most benign but effective species-specific integrated pest management methods.

To manage pest infestations while minimising associated damage a combination of the most effective economical, physical, biological and chemical controls should be used.

Treatment options may include no action, non-chemical methods or the use of an effective, least toxic pesticide. Non-chemical methods include:

- exclusion
- sanitation
- tolerance
- least toxic pesticides are those labelled “CAUTION”.

When pesticides are used and to minimise human exposure they should be applied during appropriate times and correct dosage to maximise the required results. All pesticides must be handled according to state and federal laws.

The practice of blanket spraying of roadside reserves is strongly discouraged. Spraying in this manner is not sustainable. It is extremely damaging to any remnant vegetation and locks in a cycle of maintenance of annual weeds and introduced grasses as very little else survives between seasons. Management by this method ensures the weediness of the roadside and a requirement for high ongoing maintenance. Other options should be considered.

Experimentation with light spray applications may knock out some annual introduced grasses and damage perennial grasses such as Phalaris but allow perennial native grasses to remain. The retention of native species in sound concentrations can reduce weed infestation thus reduce ongoing weed control costs. Correct timing is essential.

Spraying should occur whilst the introduced grasses are actively growing (spring) and most native grasses such as Themeda lie dormant. Spraying beyond November is likely to have the reverse effect and wipe out native grasses. Early ripening native grasses such as most Wallaby Grasses are also likely to be adversely affected by a spring spray.

Another more refined method involves the use of a large roller style “wick wiper” set at a critical height to hit pasture grasses and pass over dormant native grasses such as Themeda. Once again, correct timing is essential.

October-November is probably ideal as the vigorous growth of the annual pasture grasses can be targeted prior to seed set. Spot spraying of noxious weeds and Phalaris on roadsides is strongly encouraged. Weed spraying forms a key part of the management of fire risk and protection of remnant vegetation. Cutting and painting individual woody weed stumps is a useful technique where infestations are light or scattered.

2. INTENT

To provide a Policy under which officers determine the limit of Council’s activities with respect to spraying of weeds and vegetation on roadside reservations.

OBJECTIVES

The objects of this Policy are to:

- a) set guidelines for control of noxious weeds in roadside reservations under Council's control
- b) set guidelines for the control of vegetation growth on road shoulders
- c) set guidelines for the control of vegetation growth in roadside table drains
- d) set guidelines for the control of weeds in Council owned/managed reserves including sporting facilities
- e) set guidelines for the control of pests in Council owned/managed facilities.

3. REQUIREMENTS

- a) to limit or eradicate the growth of noxious weeds on Council controlled road reservations
- b) to limit or eradicate the growth of noxious weeds in Council owned/managed reserves including sporting facilities
- c) minimise road shoulder maintenance by preventing vegetation growth
- d) ensure surface water run off by maintaining free flowing roadside drains
- e) minimise erosion and removal of natural soils from table drains and culverts
- f) carryout all spraying activities in accordance with current standards and practices
- g) comply with all relevant WHS Legislation
- h) protecting residents from pests by preventing or suppressing pests too non-damaging levels
- i) reduce environmental pollution through selection and placement of appropriate least toxic pesticides/herbicides
- j) base pest management actions on accurate identification of pests and knowledge of their biology
- k) perform thorough assessments of pest problems and determine the best IPM options
- l) evaluate the effectiveness and reduce the cost of pest management actions
- m) educate employees about preventing pests from entering or moving within council properties
- n) maintain council properties with minimal exposure of employees/visitors to pests and pesticides
- o) contractors and employees are to wear the required Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in accordance with the product being applied at all time.

4. SCOPE OF WORKS

Roadside spraying shall be divided into two separate activities.

- a) Weed Spraying
 - To kill noxious weeds currently growing in the road reservation and
 - To prevent or control regrowth.

- b) Shoulder and Drain Spraying
 - to remove all vegetation growth from gravel road shoulders
 - to maintain vegetation within table drains to a level that ensures free flowing of runoff water away from the road formations without causing soil erosion.

5. SERVICE LEVELS

1. Service levels for Weed Spraying include:

- a) twice annual inspection of roadside reservations to check presence of noxious weeds
- b) spraying as required with appropriate selective herbicides to kill only vegetation identified as a declared weed
- c) prevent and spray drift to adjoining properties
- d) maintain records of site and date of spraying including weed species

2. Shoulder and Drain Spraying

2.1 Shoulder Spraying:

- develop a program to allow for spraying of all sealed road gravel shoulders at least once annually
- vegetation is to be sprayed prior to flowering
- spray shoulders utilising the appropriate complete herbicide
- prevent any spray drift to other roadside vegetation and adjoining properties
- spray for 200mm radius around sign and guide posts
- maintain records of dates and location of all spraying
- contractors and employees are to wear the required PPE in accordance with the product being applied at all time.

2.2 Drain Spraying

- develop a bi-annual inspection program of roadside table drains and culverts with vegetation to be sprayed prior to flowering
- identify and document areas where vegetation growth may prevent the free flow of run-off water
- develop a program to spraying areas identified
- carry out spraying utilising an appropriate herbicide spray ensuring minimal environmental impact
- prevent spray drift to adjoin areas
- maintain records of location and date of all drain spraying
- Contractors and employees are to wear the required PPE in accordance with the product being applied at all time.

3. Bait Applications

Council IPM programs should use baits of various types when other efforts have failed to solve pest problems. The following are considerations in the use of commercial bait products:

- baits should always be applied according to their labels.
- baits should be applied in secured containers in inaccessible locations.
- gel baits may be applied in cracks or crevices and should not be visible. When applying gel bait in areas where no cracks or crevices are available other options or methods of application should be investigated.
- when using granular-style baits they should be applied only in an enclosed container e.g. held in place on a glue board or enclosed container.
- no granular bait should be scattered inside of buildings.
- outside granular baiting for ants can be done on a limited basis without the bait being inside a container.
- contractors and employees are to wear the required (PPE) in accordance with the product being applied at all time.

3.1 Drift and Off-Target Applications

The safety of employees, visitors, contractors and the general public is of the greatest importance to Council. The IPM Coordinator will ensure that all pesticide and herbicide applications are performed in a manner that is safe and consistent with all label requirements. Contractors and employees are to wear the required (PPE) in accordance with the product being applied at all time.

3.2 Liquid Applications

Council's IPM program should apply very few, if any liquid pesticides. When the applications of liquid pesticides are deemed by the IPM Coordinator as necessary, the following items should be adhered to:

1. no liquid spray application that is directed above the waist can be made when the wind speed is above 11KPH;
2. all individuals who may be in the area to be treated must be notified 24 hours in advance. A notice of application will be posted and the area cordoned off with barrier tape to prevent entry until it is safe according to the pesticide label instructions. Notice of application will remain in place for 48 hours;
3. during a liquid application, precautions should be taken to ensure that only the targeted area is treated with the pesticide; and
4. pesticide label instructions should be adhered to strictly, including PPE and re- entry intervals.

3.3 Dust Applications:

Dust applications within Council's IPM program will be limited to a very few instances and must be pre-approved by the IPM Coordinator. Most of the dust insecticide applications will involve stinging insects, such as wasps, ants and bees. Other applications will be in voids and additional inaccessible areas.

The following considerations will be adhered to when utilising insecticide dusts within Council's IPM program:

1. no dust applications are to be made in areas that cannot be sealed to prevent contact with the insecticide. After dusting, a void or space must be sealed
2. dust that is visible after application must be removed immediately and the cleaning materials disposed of according to pesticide label instructions
3. when making dust applications, the IPM contractor will wear appropriate respiratory and eye protection
4. dusts can be applied to stinging insect nests that are not contained. Access to the nest area is restricted until the application is made, the insects are dead, and the nest has been removed and destroyed.

3.4 Aerosol Applications:

Council's IPM program utilises very limited types of aerosol products. There are a couple of approved products that are packaged in aerosol containers for application.

The following guidelines apply to the application of products from aerosols:

1. the only approved use of aerosol containers is to apply insecticide in a crack or crevice with a crack or crevice tube attached to the aerosol
2. no general release of an aerosol into the air or onto surfaces by an IPM contractor or employee is allowed
3. if pesticide is accidentally applied outside of a crack or crevice it must be removed immediately and the cleaning materials disposed of according to pesticide label instructions
4. foggers and similar types of aerosol devices are not to be used in any Council Buildings. This applies to the occupants, Council employees and IPM contractors.