

# **University of New England Pesticides Use Notification Plan**

**Revision 3, 2024**

## Document history

Version	Date	Author	Key Changes	Reviewer
1.0	9/07/2018	Patrick Crick	NA	Peter Eaton
2.0	11/03/2022	Suzannah Mitchell	Revision	Kath Little
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## 1. Introduction

The University of New England (UNE) is committed to working safely with chemicals and has established performance standards to ensure there is a consistent approach to managing chemical risks. Our pesticide use is subject to these chemical performance standards so that pesticides are handled in a safe, responsible manner which minimises harm to our staff, the community and the environment.

This pesticide use notification plan explains how UNE will notify members of the community about pesticide applications on its public places, with the aim of providing the community with information that enables them to avoid potential contact with pesticides.

The plan describes:

- The type of public places covered by the plan and communities who regularly use them
- How and when the University 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 notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan

## 2. Public places covered by this plan

The University of New England proposes to use pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls across its campuses:

- Gardens and lawns
- Playgrounds
- Sporting fields, courts and ovals
- Walkways
- Footpaths and verges for roads and avenues within the campus
- Car parks, grandstands & toilets
- Colleges and college gardens
- Farm paddocks adjacent to the main Armidale campus.

The University of New England estimate of the level of community use, regular user groups and types of pesticide used in each of these public place categories is summarised in the following table.

Location	Regular User Groups	Level of Use	Types of Pesticide/s Used
Gardens and lawns (e.g. Trevenna and Booloominbah gardens)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General public</li> <li>• Students</li> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• High</li> <li>• Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spot herbicides or insecticides</li> <li>• Broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> <li>• Broad scale insecticides fungicides</li> <li>• Spray termiticides spray ant control bait termiticides, spray ant control rodenticides</li> <li>• Large vertebrate baiting</li> </ul>

Location	Regular User Groups	Level of Use	Types of Pesticide/s Used
Playgrounds (e.g. Sport UNE playground)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides</li> <li>Spot insecticides</li> </ul>
Sporting fields, courts and ovals (e.g. Bellevue Oval, Bellevue Rugby Oval and Consett Davis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Contractors</li> <li>Sporting teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Medium</li> <li>Low</li> <li>High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides or insecticides</li> <li>Broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Plant growth regulators</li> <li>Broad scale insecticides fungicides</li> <li>Spray ant control bait termiticides</li> <li>Rodenticides</li> </ul>
Walkways (e.g. Elm Ave)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides or insecticides</li> <li>Broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Plant growth regulators</li> <li>Broad scale insecticides fungicides</li> <li>Spray ant control bait termiticides</li> <li>Rodenticides</li> </ul>
Verges for roads and avenues within the campus (e.g. Madgwick Dr and Ring Rd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides or insecticides</li> <li>Broad scale selective or non-selective herbicides</li> <li>Plant growth regulators</li> <li>Broad scale insecticides fungicides</li> <li>Spray ant control bait termiticides</li> <li>Rodenticides</li> </ul>
Car parks, grandstands & toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot herbicides or insecticides</li> <li>Bait insecticides and rodenticides</li> </ul>
Farm paddocks adjacent to the main campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General public</li> <li>Students</li> <li>Staff</li> <li>Contractors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> <li>High</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canid Pest Ejectors containing 1080 capsules</li> </ul>

### Explanation of User Groups

- General public – community members visiting the grounds or buildings, commuters passing through the campus, people attending functions (such as graduations or seminars) and neighbouring residences
- Students – the University’s students, while they are on campus
- Staff – the University’s staff, including academics, professionals and support staff
- Contractors – trades and professionals carrying out their work on the campus
- Sporting teams – cricket, football, tennis and other sports playing organised games or training on the sports fields

## Explanation of Level of Use

- High – Daily
- Medium – Weekly
- Low - Annual (or less frequently)

## Campuses

The University of New England has a network of campuses. The campuses that have outdoor public places where pesticide application have notification requirements are:

- Armidale
  - Academic campus
  - Bellevue (Residential) campus
  - Wright Village
  - Tablelands Clinical School
  - Teaching and learning spaces
- Parramatta
- Tamworth

A map of the Armidale campus can be found at this webpage - <https://my.une.edu.au/map/>

A map of the Parramatta campus can be found at this webpage - <https://www.une.edu.au/study/study-centres/une-sydney/locations>

## 3. Notification Arrangements

This section of the plan describes how and when The University of New England will provide notice of pesticide use in its public places, including special measures for sensitive places that are adjacent to our public places, arrangements for emergency pesticide applications and circumstances where notice will not be given.

These notification arrangements are based on The University of New England assessment of the risks involved with the pesticides, the likelihood of exposure and the sensitivity of possible receptors.

### How notice of pesticide use will be provided

Notification of pesticide use may be carried out in the following ways:

- Through this Pesticide Use Notification Plan
- Signs erected at the entry to areas where pesticides are being applied
- If the impact is large enough, a notice will also be sent out via internal email disruption notices
- Via notification in the local paper

Additional information is available by request:

- An annual schedule of pesticide application
- A Safety Data Sheet (often known as an SDS or MSDS) for particular pesticides

The specific method of notification for the different public places are:

### **Gardens, lawns, playgrounds, sporting fields, courts, paddocks and ovals**

Mobile signs will be placed at the main entries to the area immediately prior to the application. The signs will remain in place during the application and until the end of the period of avoidance specified by the pesticide manufacturer.

### **Walkways, footpaths and verges for roads and avenues within the campus**

Signs will be displayed on the vehicle, spray cart or equipment as it is applying the pesticide. Mobile signs will also be placed at an approximate 200m spacing along the walkway, footpath or verge immediately prior to the application and remain in place until the end of the period of avoidance specified by the pesticide manufacturer.

### **Pesticide uses without notification**

There will be no notification for the use of small quantities of domestic grade pesticides that involve:

- Minor spot spraying from a hand or backpack carried sprayer
- Cut and paint or stem injection techniques
- Insect, rodent and mollusc baiting in garden beds, car parks, grandstands or public toilets

### **Emergency pest control**

Emergency pesticide applications may be required occasionally to treat health hazards such as biting, stinging or venomous insects or rodents. The potential pests could include wasps, bees, rodents, spiders, fleas and mites. In these emergency cases the normal notification will not be followed. When it is possible, a single sign will be placed in the immediate area of application. If necessary, people in the area will be alerted to both the health hazard and the pesticide application, particularly when it is close to a sensitive place.

Additional notification for sensitive places

Extra notification is planned for sensitive places that are on or within 20m of areas defined as campuses within this plan. The Pesticides Regulation defines sensitive places to include schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, hospitals, community health centres or nursing homes. If you would like to be included as a sensitive place, please contact us (contact details are listed at the end of this plan).

We have considered the following sensitive areas when preparing the notification plan:

#### **Childcare Centres**

- Yarm Gwanga – Ring Road Armidale
- Wright Centre – for vocational care

#### **Medical Centres**

- Tablelands Clinical School

### **Sensitive Place notification process**

In addition to the ordinary notification outlined above, pesticide applications within 20m of a sensitive place will be notified at least 5 working days prior to the application. The person managing the sensitive place, or their delegate, will be notified.

When an emergency application is required within 20m of a sensitive place, notification will be carried out in person by knocking on the door of the sensitive place. Under these emergency circumstances the notification may be passed onto whoever is available at the sensitive place rather than the manager.

What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 20(1)(h) of the Regulation, notice of pesticides use will include the following information:

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

The template for the Pesticide Use Notice is provided in the appendix.

As part of the University's commitment to working safely with chemicals, all personnel applying pesticides or preparing a Pesticide Use Notice have at least a AQF3 Urban Pesticide Safety level of competency.

How the community will be informed

The University of New England will advise the public of this plan and its contents by:

- Making a copy of the notification plan available at the University of New England's Estate and Built Environment Building, N005, Workshop Road
- Placing a copy of the notification plan on the University website
- Placing a notice in the universities weekly Operational Update

### **4. Future reviews of this plan**

The notification plan will be reviewed every 5 years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will consider the implementation and effectiveness of the plan to identify potential improvements.

When there are major changes to the plan, the public consultation process which established the original plan will be repeated. When there are minor updates to the plan the public will be notified through an update to the plan on the website.

## **5. Contact details**

Anyone wishing to contact The University of New England to discuss the notification plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Kath Little  
Operational Services Manager, Estate and Built Environment  
Building N005, Workshop Road  
T +61 2 6773 2065  
[Kath.little@une.edu.au](mailto:Kath.little@une.edu.au)



## **Appendix A – Templates for the Pesticide Use Notice**

Staff and contractors from The University of New England and Une Life will use a sign for pesticide use notification, as described in How notice of pesticide use will be provided. There is one sign for applications by the University of New England and another notice for UNE Life, listed in the following pages.

# UNE Pesticide Use Notice

**Pesticides will or have been used in this area. The details of the application are:**

Product name of pesticide	
Active constituent	
Purpose and pests being treated	
Where the pesticide is to be used	
Dates of pesticide use	
Date of re-entry to this area	
Warnings for this pesticide (as specified on the label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit)	

Information about pesticide use can be found on the UNE Pesticides Use Notification Plan, which is available on the website ([www.une.edu.au](http://www.une.edu.au)).

Specific information on this pesticide application is available from:

Contact	
Telephone	
Email	

# UNE Life Pesticide Use Notice

**Pesticides will or have been used in this area. The details of the application are:**

Product name of pesticide	
Active constituent	
Purpose and pests being treated	
Where the pesticide is to be used	
Dates of pesticide use	
Date of re-entry to this area	
Warnings for this pesticide (as specified on the label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority permit)	

Information about pesticide use can be found on the UNE Pesticides Use Notification Plan, which is available on the website ([www.une.edu.au](http://www.une.edu.au)).

Specific information on this pesticide application is available from:

Contact	
Telephone	
Email	