

Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Lismore Campus



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1. VERSION CONTROL

Date	Changes	Author	Approved by
August 2018	Created	Grounds Supervisor	Director, Property Services Manager, Work Health & Safety

2. GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
Plan	<i>Pesticide Use Notification Plan</i>
Regulation	<i>Pesticides Regulation 2017</i>

3. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (“Plan”) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticide Regulations 2017 (“Regulation”). The Plan sets out how Southern Cross University will notify members of the community of pesticide applications at its Lismore Campus.

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 take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish.

Southern Cross University ensures pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, minimising harm to the community or the environment.

This Plan describes:

- The public places to which it applies.
- The estimated level of use of Campus Grounds by members of the public.
- How and when Lismore Campus 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 Lismore Campus notification arrangements.
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted.
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this Plan with Lismore Campus Property Services.

4. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

Southern Cross University operates at Campuses throughout the Northern Rivers of NSW and South East Queensland regions. This Pesticide Use Notification Plan applies to outdoor pesticide applications at the locations set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Locations covered by this Pesticide Use Notification Plan

CAMPUS NAME	ADDRESS
Lismore	Military Road East Lismore
Southern Cross Football Centre	Crawford Road East Lismore

Southern Cross University uses pesticides for campus maintenance. Table 2 describes the categories of outdoor location where pesticides are typically used within the University’s grounds. Table 2 also provides an estimate of public usage by members of the public of each area.

Table 2: Categories of public place and estimated usage within the University campuses.

Public Place	Public Members	Use by Public Members	Type of pesticide applied
<i>Paved areas adjacent to buildings with seating</i>	Students	High	spot herbicides
	Staff	Medium	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	broad scale algaecides
	General public	Low	bait termiticides, ant control
<i>Lawns and grassed areas</i>	Students	Medium	spot herbicides
	Staff	Medium	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	
	General public	Low	
<i>Garden beds and landscaped areas(not lawns)</i>	Students	Low	spot herbicides
	Staff	Low	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	broad scale algaecides
	General public	Low	
<i>Exterior of buildings and ground immediately adjacent to buildings</i>	Students	Low	spot herbicides
	Staff	Low	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	broad scale algaecides
	General public	Low	bait termiticides, ant control
<i>Horticultural areas used for educational purposes(horticultural research, test plots)</i>	Students	Medium	spot herbicides
	Staff	Medium	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	broad scale insecticides
	General public	Low	
<i>Roads ,car parks, pathways, external stairs and other outdoor thoroughfares</i>	Students	Medium	spot herbicides
	Staff	Medium	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low to Medium	broad scale algaecides
	General public	Low to Medium	
<i>Ovals and other sporting facilities</i>	Students	Medium	spot herbicides
	Staff	Low	spot insecticides
	Contractors	Low	broad scale insecticides
	General public	Low	broad scale herbicides
	Non-University sporting groups	Medium	

5. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

This section of the Plan describes how and when Southern Cross University will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including:

- General notification requirements for medium and low use areas on campus.
- Additional notification requirements for high use or high contact areas on campus.
- Additional notification requirements for sensitive places.
- Notification measures for small applications and emergency pest control

These notification requirements are based on Southern Cross University assessment of:

- the level of usage of outdoor areas on campuses 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) are likely to use these areas
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as areas where food is consumed or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)

These notification arrangements apply to University staff, contractors and anyone else using pesticides on campus grounds.

5.1 General notification requirements for low and medium use areas

The notification arrangements described in this section apply to the following categories of outdoor area, provided that usage is considered to be low or medium:-

- Lawns / grassed areas
- Garden beds and landscaped areas
- Horticultural areas used for educational purposes (Science studies, research, sports fields)
- Exterior of buildings and ground immediately adjacent to buildings
- Roads, car parks, pathways, external stairs and other outdoor thoroughfares
- Any other outdoor areas of a campus.

Where usage of these areas on a particular campus is considered to be high then the additional measures in section 5.b apply.

When applications occur in low and medium use areas the following measures will be taken:-

- a. Signs will be in place for the duration of the application
- b. Signs will be located so they are easily seen by passers-by
- c. The signs will be removed once the application is completed, unless the period of avoidance required by the pesticide manufacturer is still current (in which case signs will be removed once the avoidance period has expired)

- d. The signs will contain the following information:-
- date and time of pesticide application;
 - area to which the pesticides will be applied;
 - full product name of the pesticide being used (and active ingredient if possible);
 - purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects);
 - a contact name and phone number for further information.
 - any warnings on the pesticide label about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application.

Where available and practicable, central noticeboards used by staff and students will also have a notice in place 24-hours prior to the application occurring containing the information set out as on the signs.

5.2 Additional notification requirements for high use or high contact areas on University campuses

The additional notification arrangements in this section apply to the following categories of outdoor area, when usage is considered high or it is considered a high contact area:-

- outdoor areas where students or staff congregate for lunch or other social or educational functions, in particular lawns and paved areas adjacent to outdoor seating or eating areas
- sporting fields and ovals where potential for contact with the ground surface during use is high (even where overall usage is medium or low). The notification arrangements described in Section 5.1 will apply, with the following additional arrangements in place.

When applications occur in low and medium use areas, the following measures will be taken:-

- a. An email will be sent to all staff at least 24-hours before pesticide application occurs or as soon as practicable after the intention to apply pesticides is notified but before the application commences. The email will contain the information set out in (b) below. Where applications are dependent on weather or other conditions the email will indicate the time period during which application is anticipated to occur.
- b. At least two re-locatable signs will be placed in the area 24 hours prior to the application. These signs will contain the information set out in Section 5.a General Notifications and will be located in high visibility areas within or adjacent to the proposed application location.
- c. These signs will be kept in place for 24 hours after the pesticide application has been completed unless the avoidance period required by the pesticide manufacturer is still current, in which case signs will be removed once the avoidance period has expired.
- d. In the case of sporting fields or ovals, a notice containing the information set out in Section 5.1 will be placed on an available noticeboard associated with the sporting field or oval, should there be one. When there is no obvious notice board, contact will be made with user groups to identify suitable notification methods. The notice will be in place for the timing described in Section 5.1
- e. A letter will be sent annually to all users of sporting fields and other outdoor areas indicating the manner in which notification will be provided and will include the location of notice boards and person to contact for further information on pesticide applications.

5.3 Additional notification requirements for sensitive sites

A number of sensitive sites are located on, or adjacent to, Southern Cross University campus. These sensitive sites are listed in Appendix 1 of this Plan.

In addition to the notification arrangements set out in Section 5.1 and 5.2 the manager, principal or other contact person for the sensitive site will be notified in writing (or alternate contact method as nominated by that person) at least one week before planned use of pesticides in or near the area.

Application will not take place until confirmation is received from the contact person that they have received the notification.

These areas will be treated outside standard operating times of the Campus when necessary.

Sensitive areas will be treated by mechanical methods (hand removal , brush cutting) or in breaks of operations if pesticides are used.

5.4 Notification measures for small applications and emergency pest control

Southern Cross University uses small quantities of pesticides for weed and insect control that are widely available in retail outlets and ordinarily used for domestic purposes (including home gardening). When less than one litre (or one packet) of such pesticides are applied on any given day, no notice will be given provided the following conditions are met:

- application is conducted using hand held sprays or baits readily available for domestic purposes at retail outlets
- application is not carried out within 10 metres of students or staff using outdoor areas unless students and staff present at the time of the application are advised verbally.

In cases where emergency pesticide applications are required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that pose an immediate health hazard) one sign will be placed in the immediate area for the duration of the pesticide application. The sign will indicate that pesticide application is currently occurring and will contain the following outlined in Section 5.1.

Every attempt will be made to verbally notify the contact person prior to the small or emergency applications of pesticides in or near sensitive sites.

5.5 Community consultation

A copy of this Plan will be available to the public on the Southern Cross University intranet.

6. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

This Plan will be reviewed every five years.

7. CONTACT DETAILS

For further information:-

Director, Property Services
Southern Cross University
PO Box 157
Lismore NSW 2480
T: 02 6620 3789

8. APPENDIX A – SENSITIVE SITES

The notification arrangements set out in Section 5.c of this Plan apply to the following sensitive sites:-

<i>Sensitive site</i>	Location
<i>Child care centre</i>	M Block, Rifle Range Road within the campus
<i>Rivers High School</i>	Adjacent to the campus