



Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2016

Real skills, real careers

Amidale • Boggabilla • Coonabarabran • Glen Innes • Gunnedah
Inverell • Moree • Narrabri • Quirindi • Tamworth • Tenterfield

1. INTRODUCTION

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Pesticides Regulation 2009 (the Regulation). The plan sets out how TAFE New England will notify members of the community of pesticide or herbicide 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 take action to avoid contact with pesticides, if they wish. TAFE New England ensures that 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 TAFE New England 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 TAFE New England's notification arrangements
- How future reviews of the plan will be conducted
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this plan with TAFE New England.

2. PUBLIC PLACES COVERED BY THIS PLAN

TAFE New England operates at campuses throughout the New England and North West Regions. This Pesticide Use Notification Plan applies to outdoor pesticide applications at the campuses set out in **Table 1**.

Table 1: TAFE NSW – TAFE New England Campus Locations

Campus	Address
Armidale	Beardy Street, Armidale NSW 2350
Armidale Rural Skills Centre	Taylor St, Armidale NSW 2350
Boggabilla	South Street, Boggabilla NSW 2409
Coonabarabran	16 Robertson Street, Coonabarabran NSW 2357
Glen Innes	Grey Street, Glen Innes NSW 2370
Gunnedah	Hunter Street, Gunnedah NSW 2380
Inverell	Evans Street, Inverell NSW 2360
Moree	22-38 Frome Street, Moree NSW 2400
Moree Rural Skills Centre	Newell Highway, Moree NSW 2400
Narrabri	Barwan Street, Narrabri NSW 2390
Quirindi	Gamble Street, Quirindi NSW 2343
Tamworth	13 Janison Street, Tamworth NSW 2340
Tamworth Aviskills	Tamworth Airport, Tamworth NSW 2340
Tenterfield	High Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372

TAFE New England uses pesticides for educational purposes and for campus maintenance.

Generally:

- The least toxic chemical possible is used;
- Where practicable, pesticide use is undertaken in off-peak periods;
- Where practicable, pesticide use is the last resort once other pest control techniques do not prove effective;
- Pesticide use is minimised during the spring flowering period to avoid toxicity exposure to bees and other native insects.

Table 2: Categories of public place and estimated usage within TAFE New England campuses

Describes the categories of outdoor locations where pesticides are typically used within Institute grounds and also provides an estimate of the level of usage by members of the public, of each area)

Public Places	User Groups	Level of Use of Public Place
Lawns and paved areas adjacent to outdoor seating	Students	High
	Staff	Medium - High
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Lawns / grassed areas	Students	Medium - High
	Staff	Low - Medium
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Garden beds and landscaped areas (not lawns)	Students	Low
	Staff	Low
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Horticultural and agricultural areas used for educational purposes (greens, turf, vegetable gardens, vineyards, greenhouses, nurseries/propagation sheds, paddocks/animal pens and general landscaped areas.)	Students	Medium - High
	Staff	Medium - High
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Exterior of buildings and ground immediately adjacent to buildings	Students	Low
	Staff	Low
	Contractors	Low
	General public	Low
Roads, car parks, pathways, external stairs and other outdoor thoroughfares	Students	Medium - High
	Staff	Medium - High
	Contractors	Low - Medium
	General public	Low

Note that levels of usage vary between campuses.

Table 3: Sensitive area locations on or adjacent to TAFE New England campuses

Lists sensitive areas on or adjacent to TAFE New England campuses

TNE CAMPUS	SENSITIVE AREA	LOCATION RELATIVE TO TAFE NEW ENGLAND CAMPUS
Boggabilla	Boggabilla Central School and Pre-school	Co-located on campus on South Street
Coonabarabran	Family Support Service Centre	Located adjacent on Robinson St
Coonabarabran	St Lawrence's Catholic School	Located adjacent on Namoi St
Glen Innes	Glen Industries	Located adjacent at 77 Grey St
Gunnedah	Sugar Gum Pre-school	Co-located on campus on Hunter St
Narrabri	Narrabri Public School	Located across the street on Barwan St
Tamworth	Oxley High School	Located adjacent on Piper St
Tenterfield	Sir Henry Parkes Memorial Public School	Located adjacent on Wood St

Where TAFE New England leases all or part of its facilities to another organisation. TAFE New England will;

- a. Meet with the Licensee to advise them of TAFE New England's Pesticide Use Notification Policy and provide the Licensee with a copy and;
- b. Advise the Licensees that they will be required to comply with the requirements of TAFE New England's Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

NOTE: TAFE New England will not provide notification of any Licensee pesticide use.

Table 4: Lessees of spaces on TAFE New England campuses

TAFE New England campuses where other organisations hold long term lease agreements with TAFE New England.

CAMPUS NAME	LEASING ORGANISATION
Armidale	Dept of Industry
Armidale	GeoLINK P/L
Armidale	Careers Network
Boggabilla	Joblink Plus
Gunnedah	Tech Paddock
Gunnedah	Sugar Gum Pre-school
Tamworth	Careers Network
Tenterfield	Community Garden
Tenterfield	Men's Shed
Tenterfield	Community College

3. NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS & INFORMATION PROVIDED

This section of the plan describes how and when TAFE New England will provide notice of pesticide use in public places, including:

1. Notification measures for small applications and emergency pest control
2. General notification requirements for medium and low use areas on Institute campuses
3. Additional notification requirements for high use or high contact areas on Institute campuses
4. Additional notification requirements for sensitive places

These notification requirements are based on TAFE New England's 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) 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 areas where food is consumed or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground)
- Type of pesticide used.

These notification arrangements apply to TAFE New England staff, contractors and anyone else using pesticides (or herbicides) on TAFE New England campus grounds.

3.1 NO NOTIFICATION FOR SMALL APPLICATIONS

TAFE New England uses small quantities of some 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 of non-concentrate/ready-to-use, or made up (from concentrate) product, or one kilogram of such pesticides are applied on any given day, no notice will be given provided the following conditions are met:

- Application is conducted using;
 - cut & paint or drill & fill herbicide application
 - hand held sprays or backpack application for the purpose of spot control, using glyphosate or other readily available domestic-purpose pesticides/herbicides
 - 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.

3.2 GENERAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LOW AND MEDIUM USE AREAS ON INSTITUTE CAMPUSES

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

- Lawns and paved areas adjacent to outdoor seating
- Lawns / grassed areas
- Garden beds and landscaped areas (not lawns)
- Horticultural and agricultural areas used for educational purposes (greens, turf, vegetable gardens, vineyards, greenhouses, nurseries/propagation sheds, paddocks/animal pens and general landscaped areas.)
- 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 3.3** apply.

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

- a. No email notification is required.
- b. At least two re-locatable signs will be placed immediately adjacent to the application area, prior to commencement, and kept in place for the duration of the application. Signs will be located so they are easily seen by passers-by. 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). The signs will contain the following information:
 - The proposed date/s, time/s and location/s of application.
 - The location/s on campus where the application will occur
 - The full product name of the pesticide (including active ingredient if possible)
 - The purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects)
 - Any warnings from the pesticide label on how long the area should be avoided after application
 - A contact name and phone number for further information.
- c. Where available and practicable, central noticeboards used by staff, students will have a notice in place 24 hours prior to the application occurring containing the information set out in (b) above.

3.3 ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDIUM–HIGH USE OR HIGH POTENTIAL CONTACT AREAS ON INSTITUTE CAMPUSES

The additional notification arrangements in this section apply to:

- Outdoor areas where students or staff congregate for lunch or other social or educational functions as identified in Table 1.
 - Any outdoor surface where the potential for contact with the ground surface during usage is low or low-medium.
- a. An email will be sent to all staff of that campus 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. Notifications to staff will contain the following information:
 - The proposed date/s, time/s and location/s of application.
 - The location/s on campus where the application will occur
 - The full product name of the pesticide (including active ingredient if possible)
 - The purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects)
 - Any warnings from the pesticide label on how long the area should be avoided after application
 - A contact name and phone number for further information.
 - c. At least two re-locatable signs will be placed in the area 24 hours prior to the application and kept in place for the duration of the application. These signs will contain the information set out in (b) above and will be located in high visibility areas within or adjacent to the proposed application location. 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. Where available and practicable, central noticeboards used by staff and students will have a notice in place 24 hours prior to the application occurring containing the information set out in (b) above.

3.4 ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SENSITIVE PLACES

A number of sensitive places are located on or adjacent to TAFE New England campuses. These sensitive places are listed in Table 3. In addition to the notification arrangements set out in Sections 3.2 and 3.3 the following arrangements will apply when pesticide application occurs on or adjacent to sensitive areas:

- a. The manager, principal or other contact person for the sensitive place 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.
- b. The notification will contain the following information: – where the pesticide will be used
 - The proposed date/s, time/s and location/s of application. Where it is not possible to provide a specific date, then a range of dates of when an application will take place should be given
 - The full product name of the pesticide that will be used (and active ingredient if possible)
 - The purpose of the use (for example, to kill weeds or insects)
 - A phone number and email address for the person who can be contacted about the proposed use
 - Any warnings on the pesticide label about how long the area must be avoided after a pesticide application.
- c. Application will not take place until confirmation has been received by the contact person that the notification has been received.

3.5 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY PEST CONTROL MEASURES

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 and staff working in nearby buildings will be notified by email. The sign will indicate that pesticide application is currently occurring and will contain the following information:

- a. Name of the pesticide (and active ingredient if possible)
- b. Purpose of application
- c. Significant health warnings associated with the pesticide
- d. The expected duration
- e. A contact name and phone number of a person who can provide further information.

These measures only apply to emergency applications. When planned pesticide applications are carried out for control of insects the notification measures described in Section 3.2 and 3.3 apply depending on the use of the areas as assessed in Table 2.

Every attempt will be made to notify the contact person for a sensitive area prior to the small or emergency applications of pesticides in or near sensitive areas.

4. HOW THE COMMUNITY WILL BE INFORMED OF THIS PLAN

TAFE New England will advise the public of this Plan and its contents by:

- Placing a copy of the Plan on the ITS website.
- Placing a notice in the Country Leader insert produced by the Northern Daily Leader.
- Placing a notice in the NSW Government Gazette.

5. FUTURE REVIEWS OF THE PLAN

This Plan will be reviewed every three years or when circumstances require a review of the plan. The review will be undertaken by the Work, Health & Safety and Sustainability Units of TAFE New England and include:

- A report on progress of implementing the plan
- Invitations for public consultation on the notification methods outlined in the plan
- In light of public submissions, making recommendation for alterations (if applicable) to the plan.

6. CONTACT DETAILS

Anyone wishing to contact TAFE New England to discuss this Pesticide Use Notification Plan or to obtain details of pesticide applications on TAFE New England campuses should contact:

Director - Learning Environment
TAFE New England
Janison Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340
Phone: 02 6768 2447