

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy Owner:	Parks and Conservation Management
Contact Person:	Manager Parks and Conservation Management
Date of Approval:	Draft

POLICY STATEMENT

The Policy reflects current best practice for pesticide management in the Local Government Authority environment in Western Australia whilst incorporating community views and ensuring sound risk and contract management.

POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Policy is to ensure that the City meets its environmental, legal and community obligations for pesticide use on land it administers in a manner that is environmentally, socially and economically responsible. It also ensures that pesticides are applied in the City's parks, streetscapes and conservation reserves in accordance with the relevant state government acts and guidelines and industry best practice.

SCOPE

The Policy applies to the application of pesticides to all City managed land. Administration, City contractors and other contractors engaged in the application of pesticides within City managed land are required to comply with this Policy.

IMPLICATIONS (Strategic, Financial, Human Resources)

Administration of this Policy will be delivered through existing resources within Parks and Conservation Management and financed through the annual Parks and Conservation Management Operational Budgets.

The policy complies with the following:

- Western Australian Health Act 1911 – Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011
- Government of Western Australia Department of Health - A guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in Western Australia.

IMPLEMENTATION

The City will include the use of chemical and non-chemical methods as part of all pest and weed control programs. When using pesticides the City will adhere to the following principles:

- Use pesticides on the basis of risk management, good contract management and auditing results;

- Work within specific time frames suitable to the location (Pesticide application within a 500 metre radius of school zones is prohibited between the hours of 7.30am to 9.00am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm on school days unless otherwise approved by the school Principal)
- Inform the community and provide timely notification of pesticide application events;
- Consult other government agencies and local stakeholders when pest control activities have the potential to impact on environmentally significant land, water catchment areas, farming property or other sensitive area of activity; and
- Comply with all applicable legislation, codes and policies with respect to pesticide application by the City and its contractors.

1. Risk Management

Prior to the use of pesticides, an annual assessment of risk will be conducted for specific and collectively similar locations whilst considering the following background issues:

- The size of the program and the financial, physical and human resources available to support it;
- The extent to which the Integrated Pest Management methods are used;
- The level of skill and experience in weed and pest control held by City employees;
- The adequacy of information held by the City on pesticides used in the pest control programs;

The identification and assessment of risks associated with the use of pesticides will be undertaken for:

- Each specific location to be treated with pesticides; and/or
- Collectively similar locations to be treated with pesticides.

2. Community Consultation and Notification

The community will be given the opportunity to comment on the Policy as well as periodic plans for pest control. All pesticide applications will be advertised on the City's website and through local community newspapers. The three levels of communication are summarized in the below table:

Communicate What	Frequency	Mode of Communication	Outcome Sought
Pesticide Management Policy	Once only prior to implementation	Consultation through City website	Community response
Pesticide Notification Plan	Periodically/annually	Consultation through City website	Community response
Pesticide Applications	Regularly/monthly	Notification	No response sought
No Spray List	Ongoing	Notification through City website	Community response

Notification of pesticide applications are based on the principle that people who live or work in or visit an area have the right to know when public places are treated with pesticides. Notifying people about pesticide applications means that they can make informed decisions about entering a public place.

As part of the consultation process, residents will be given the opportunity to register on the City's "No Spray List". The list allows individual owners to register their property so that the footpath and verge adjacent to the property is excluded from having chemical based products applied to it.

3. Implementation of the pest control program

All pesticides applications will be conducted by staff City employees and contractors trained in the safe and effective use of pesticides. All operators involved in the application of pesticides will be provided with well-maintained application equipment and personal protective equipment that is appropriate to the specific pesticide product being used in accordance with the product label and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Parks and Conservation Management are responsible for publication, implementation, and compliance of this Policy and will provide interpretations in the event of the need for clarification.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION *(If applicable)*

All disputes in regard to this policy will be referred to the Director Assets in the first instance. In the event that an agreement cannot be reached, the matter will be submitted to Council for referral.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROVISIONS

Policy documents must be reviewed at least every five (5) years, though changes related to relevant legislation, government policies or City objectives may trigger a review of the document before its calendar review date.

DEFINITIONS

Pesticides	The use of the term pesticides refers to all herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.
Integrated Pest Management	A pest management program based on chemical and non-chemical pre and post-treatment control methods.
Herbicide	Chemical substances used to control unwanted plants.
Insecticide	A substance used to kill insects.
Fungicide	Chemical compounds or biological organisms used to kill fungi or fungal spores.
Material Safety Data Sheet	A document that provides information on the properties of hazardous chemicals and how they affect health and safety in the workplace.

RELEVANT POLICIES/MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS OR DELEGATIONS

Pest Use Notification Plan.

REFERENCES

- Western Australian Health Act 1911 – Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011
- Government of Western Australia Department of Health - A guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in Western Australia.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Manager Parks and Conservation Management

Version	Next Review	Record No: