

Responsible Directorate	Infrastructure
Responsible Business Unit/s	Parks and Sustainability Engineering Operations
Responsible Officer	Manager Parks and Sustainability
Affected Business Unit/s	Planning and Development – Environmental Health

Objective

To ensure that the City of Stirling meets its environmental, legal and community obligations for weed and pest management on land owned and or managed by the City, in a manner that is environmentally, socially and economically acceptable to Council. To provide guidance on how the City takes a considered approach to Integrated Pest Management that takes into account effectiveness, potential impacts and financial costs.

Scope

The following policy applies to employees of the City of Stirling, as well as contractors and volunteers engaged by Council, for the control of weeds and pests in parks and reserves, road reservations, laneways and other property owned and or managed by the City.

Policy

1. The City will:

- a. Seek to reduce the use of chemical based herbicides and pesticides to control weeds and pests and replace with environmentally sustainable alternatives, where practicable and within financial resources.
- b. Trial environmentally sustainable herbicide and pesticide alternatives for weed control and spray applications utilising a risk management approach.
- c. Utilise the principles of Integrated Pest Management for the management of the City's landscapes, infrastructure and properties.
- d. Apply best practice methods as well as clear and accountable management systems for weed control and pesticide application to minimise environmental and human impacts.
- e. Assess the use of registered chemicals to ensure that the pesticide use is justified, minimised and the lowest toxicity necessary is applied to achieve the desired outcome.
- f. Apply a risk assessment approach to weed and pest control in the provision of essential infrastructure and recreation and environmental reserves and spaces, inclusive of rigorous contract management and supervision, adherence to regulatory and product label requirements, training, auditing and reporting.
- g. Any employees or contractors involved in the City's weed and pest management activities will undertake appropriate training to ensure safe and effective control methods.
- h. Ensure pesticides are applied in accordance with label directions and/or any provisions of a minor use permit issued by the APVMA. Ensure pesticides are applied in accordance with the Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011 as amended.
- i. Liaise where necessary with volunteer land management groups and government agencies engaged in the control of invasive pests and weeds.

2. Pesticide Use Notification Plan

A Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) will be produced for public scrutiny and information. The Plan will be reviewed every three years, or sooner where there has been significant change to the City's use of a particular pesticide (or the use of a new pesticide), or a change in the City's direction, focus, or legal requirements. The Plan will detail how the City will notify the public of the City's pesticide application activities.

Additional information regarding how residents or occupants may apply to have their name listed on the 'No Spray Verge List' and 'Park Pesticide Notification List' has been included in the City's draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan.

3. Pesticide Notification Register

A Pesticide Notification Register is to be regularly maintained that includes:

- a. No Spray Verge List - to allow residents/ ratepayers to register an adjacent City verge to be pesticide free (in return for the resident/ owner maintaining the verge in a weed free condition;
- b. Park Pesticide Notification List - to allow residents to register for notification when a nearby park or reserve (managed by the City) is to be sprayed using a pesticide.

The Pesticide Notification Register is to be routinely updated, where those already on the list will be contacted by either email, phone or in writing to confirm their details or change in circumstances.

Definitions

APVMA - Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (the Commonwealth Authority responsible for approving pesticides and issuing Minor Use Permits).

Herbicide – chemical substances used to control unwanted plants.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as mechanical control, biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

Pesticide – a substance used to destroy unwanted plants, insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or to animals. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, algaecides, nematocides, etc.

Relevant management practices/documents

Draft Pesticide Use Notification Plan

A guide to the management of pesticides in local government pest control programs in Western Australia.
Department of Health (WA).

Legislation/local law requirements

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Commonwealth)

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995

Health (Pesticides) Regulations 2011 (WA)

Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976 (WA)

City of Stirling Pest Plant Local Law 2012 (Caltrop control)

Office use only

Relevant delegations	Not applicable		
Initial Council adoption	Date 4 December 2018	Resolution #	1218/005
Last reviewed	Date 26 May 2020	Resolution #	0520/027
Next review due	Date 2021		