



Weed Management Policy

Title	Weed Management Policy
Summary	The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to public spaces that are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places and to outline the methodologies to manage weeds within the Inner West.
Background	<p>This Policy is to assist Council in meeting its commitment to the community to provide neat and tidy streetscapes and parks.</p> <p>This Policy outlines safe procedures for the management of weeds within the Inner West.</p>
Policy Type	Council
Relevant Strategic Plan Objective	<p>Strategic direction 1: An ecologically sustainable Inner West</p> <p>1.2 Biodiversity is rich, with connected habitats for flora and fauna.</p> <p>1.3 The community is water sensitive, with clean, swimmable waterways.</p> <p>Strategic direction 2: Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods</p> <p>2.3 Public spaces are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places, seamlessly connected with their surroundings</p> <p>Strategic direction 4: Caring, happy, healthy communities</p> <p>4.3 The community is healthy and people have a sense of wellbeing</p>
Relevant Council References	Pesticide Use Notification Plan
Main Legislative Or Regulatory Reference	<p>Pesticides Act 1999</p> <p>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</p> <p>Work, Health & Safety Act 2011</p> <p>NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</p>
Applicable Delegation Of Authority	As per delegations' register
Other External References	Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan
Attachments	See Annexure

Record Notes	External available document
Version Control	See last page

Document:	Council Policy	<i>Uncontrolled Copy When Printed</i>	
Custodian:	Group Manager Trees, Parks & Streetscapes	Version #	Version 1
Approved By:	Group Manager Trees, Parks & Streetscapes	ECM Ref #	33877066
Adopted By:	Council	Publish Location	Internet
Adopted Date and Minute #:	26 February 2019 C0219(3) Item 5	Next Review Date	26 February 2021

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to contribute to public spaces that are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places and to outline the methodologies to manage weeds within the Inner West.

1. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Demonstrate Council's commitment to ecologically sustainable development and minimising chemical pollution by minimising the use of herbicide weed control and to use alternatives where required, practicable and feasible.
- Control the growth of weeds in road reserves, nature strips, parks and other public places to an acceptable level.
- Provide neat and tidy streetscapes and parks.
- Contribute to improving the Greater Sydney region's biosecurity.
- Protect natural assets, particularly waterways and wetlands, from invasive weeds.

2. SCOPE

2.1. In scope

This Policy applies to land, which is under the ownership, care, control and/ or management of Council.

2.2. Out of scope

This Policy does not apply to land not owned by Council. This Policy does not apply to land owned by Council but leased to another organisation or business.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Council wishes to provide public spaces that are high-quality, welcoming and enjoyable places. This Policy is to assist Council in meeting its commitment to the community to provide neat and tidy streetscapes and parks.

4. POLICY

Council will undertake immediate eradication of weed species that are not known to occur elsewhere in the Inner West and prevent, eradicate and contain priority weeds for the Greater Sydney Local Land Services region as per Weed Management Annexure (and Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan).

Council will manage weeds and undesirable plants in accordance with the policy outlined below.

4.1. Weed Management Locations

Council undertakes weed management in the following locations:

- Streets with verges
- Verge gardens
- Streets with no Verges
- Local Area Traffic Management devices (LATMs)
- Sensitive Areas
- Parks, sportsfields and park gardens
- Other Council-owned public places
- Land owned by others where Council staff undertake work under licence with the landowner

4.2. Weed Management Priorities

Council will undertake weed management in streetscape areas in accordance with the following priorities:

- Vision of vehicular traffic
- Health and safety of pedestrian users
- Contribution to Greater Sydney's regional biodiversity and biosecurity
- Aesthetic values

Council will undertake weed management in parks and sportsfields in accordance with the following priorities:

- Health and safety of recreational users
- Contribution to Greater Sydney's regional biodiversity and biosecurity
- Use and enjoyment of recreational users
- Aesthetic values

4.3. Weed Management Hierarchy

The hierarchy of weed management is as follows:

In the first instance, weed management is undertaken by mechanical methods (mowing and whipper snipper) with minimum disturbance to the surrounding environment.

Weed management will be undertaken by alternatives to herbicides where required, feasible and practical.

Herbicides are utilised where other methods are not feasible and practicable, and for spot control of persistent weeds that resist other treatments. This excludes sensitive areas, as outlined below in 4.5 Sensitive Areas.

4.4. Permitted Herbicides

Council only utilises Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) registered products. Herbicides are utilised in accordance with the APVMA and the manufacturers' directions.

Council will have regard to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles when determining options for weed control and herbicide selection.

4.5. Sensitive Areas

The following locations are identified as sensitive areas:

- Commercial areas
- Town centre areas
- Areas adjacent to childcare centres
- Areas adjacent to schools
- Playgrounds equipment areas in Council parks
- Waterplay parks in Council parks
- Water Sensitive Urban Design devices (WSUD) or rain garden areas
- Within 50 metres of watercourses and wetlands

In sensitive areas, weed management is undertaken by steam weeding, mechanical weeding and/ or hand weeding.

Residents may nominate the public area adjacent to their property to be added to the sensitive areas list. An application form is available on Council's website. Where residents nominate the area adjacent to their property to be on the sensitive areas list, Council will not undertake weed removal at this location. Residents will be requested to be responsible for mechanical weed removal themselves.

4.6. Use of Herbicides

Where herbicides are utilised, the following control methods will be utilised:

- Notification will be undertaken in accordance with the Pesticide Use Notification Plan, a copy of which is available on Council's website.
- Herbicides are utilised in accordance with the APVMA and the manufacturers' directions.
- No spraying in wet conditions and when expecting rain within 24 hours.
- Blue vegetable-based dye is to be mixed with herbicides to show the areas which have been treated.
- Use nozzle cones on spray wands wherever possible.
- Ensure there are no members of the public nearby when using the pressure spray.
- No spraying on windy days.
- In the case of sportsfields, herbicides will only be utilised at times that do not interfere with bookings from schools, clubs and other users.
- Records are kept of all applications of herbicide.

4.7. Training

Staff who utilise herbicides are required to have a minimum AQF3 qualification to apply chemicals and a valid Chemical Users Certificate.

Coordinators, who supervise staff utilising herbicides are to have a minimum AQF4 qualification in the supervision of staff applying chemicals and a valid Chemical Users Certificate.

Contractors who utilise herbicides are required to have a minimum AQF3 qualification to apply chemicals and a valid Chemical Users Certificate.

4.8. Work, Health & Safety

Herbicides are utilised in accordance with the APVMA, the manufacturers' directions and Inner West Safe Work Method Statements. Staff who utilise herbicides are required to wear

PPE when handling, mixing and utilising herbicides in accordance with the APVMA, the manufacturers' directions and Inner West Safe Work Method Statements.

Volunteers are not to utilise herbicides.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff, contractors and volunteers are responsible for ensuring they undertake their work in accordance with this Policy and Work, Health & Safety requirements.

The Group Manager Trees, Parks & Streetscapes is responsible for ensuring that staff have adequate resources, equipment and materials to comply with the requirements of this Policy. The Group Manager Trees, Parks & Streetscapes is responsible for reviewing and updating this Policy as and when needed.

The Streetscape & Fleet Operations Manager and Parks & Sportsfields Operations Manager are responsible for ongoing monitoring of the weed management industry and APVMA advice for any new information and appropriate alternative weed treatments, and take action as needed.

6. ASSOCIATED PROCEDURES

The following are related legislation, policies and procedures:

- Inner West Pesticide Use Notification Plan
- Pesticides Act 1999
- NSW Biosecurity Act 2015
- Work, Health & Safety Act 2011
- Greater Sydney Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan
- NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Version Control - POLICY HISTORY:

The history of modifications and approval to the Policy must be detailed in the table below post adoption

Governance Use only:

Version	Amended By	Changes Made	Date	TRIM #
1	Group Manager Trees, Parks & Streetscapes	New IWC Policy replacing pre-merged versions	February 2019	
2				