

# PESTICIDE USE NOTIFICATION PLAN

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Prepared by Safety and Environmental Services

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September 2017

## Revisions

Date	Revision Number	Section(s)	Details of Revision
November 2006	1		Draft for Community Consultation
January 2007	2		Final for public release
May 2013	3		General updates
April 2014	4		General updates
September 2017	5		Update to Pesticides Regulation 2017 and general updates

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# Contents

- Contents ..... 3
- 1.0 Introduction ..... 4
- 1.1 Endeavour Energy pesticide application processes.....5
- 2.0 Public places covered by this Plan ..... 8
- 3.0 Notification arrangements..... 10
- 3.1 Emergency pesticide applications .....12
- 3.2 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places.....12
- 3.3 When notification will not be provided .....12
- 4.0 What information will be provided..... 15
- 5.0 How the community will be informed of the Plan and any future revisions ..... 16
- 6.0 Contact details..... 16
- 7.0 Definitions ..... 17

## 1.0 Introduction

Endeavour Energy is a “poles and wires” business responsible for the safe and reliable supply of electricity to 2.4 million people in households and businesses across Sydney’s Greater West, the Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands, the Illawarra and the South Coast. The Endeavour Energy network is made up of 186 major substations, 416,000 power poles and street light columns and 32,000 distribution substations bound together by nearly 50,000 kilometres of underground and overground cables.



Sixteen Endeavour Energy field service centres operate within our network, with staff whose key functions are to maintain the network, repair faults, respond to emergencies and service customers and developers in relation to customer connection and contestable projects.

As part of Endeavour Energy’s maintenance programs, various pesticides are applied in order to protect assets and maintain public safety.

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan (the Plan) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*.

The aim of this Plan is to meet the community’s general right to know about pesticide application in outdoor public places that are owned, controlled or whose use is shared by public authorities and to ensure that pesticides are applied to public places in a safe, responsible manner, thereby minimising harm to the community and the environment. The Plan sets out how and when Endeavour Energy will give public notice of the proposed use of pesticides by Endeavour Energy and/or its contractors in a prescribed public place that is owned by Endeavour Energy or, to the extent that Endeavour Energy is required to carry out

its statutory functions in relation to such a place, controlled by Endeavour Energy. Accordingly, the Plan will allow members of the community to take action to avoid contact with pesticides, should they wish to do so.

The Plan describes:

- What public places are covered;
- Who regularly uses these public places and an estimate of the level of use by such persons;
- How and when Endeavour Energy will notify affected persons of proposed pesticide applications in public places (i.e. What notification arrangements will be used and what will be included in the notice);
- Situations where Endeavour Energy will be using pesticides in public places and will not be notifying the public;
- How the community can access this Plan and obtain more information about Endeavour Energy's notification arrangements;
- How future reviews of the Plan will be conducted; and
- Contact details for anyone wishing to discuss this Plan with Endeavour Energy.

### **1.1 Endeavour Energy pesticide application processes**

Endeavour Energy and its qualified contractors use pesticides when necessary to control pests and weeds, to protect network assets from pest damage, to prevent impacts on adjacent land uses and to protect the users of public places from pests or potential danger from damaged network assets.

Endeavour Energy's pest management programs aim to apply best practice and minimise adverse impacts to the surrounding community and environment.

Endeavour Energy observes all relevant legislation and Codes of Practice when undertaking work using pesticides, including:

- The SafeWork NSW Code of Practice for the *Safe Use of Pesticides including Herbicides in Non-Agricultural Workplaces*;
- *Pesticides Act 1999*;
- *Pesticides Regulation 2017*;
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*;
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*; and
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.

All personnel who are engaged in using pesticides receive appropriate competency-based training within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). All team members must hold an AQF3 qualification and the supervisor of each team must hold an AQF4 qualification. Chemical treatment is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (specimen label) and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) requirements.

A summary of Endeavour Energy's pesticide usage can be found in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of Endeavour Energy pesticide usage**

Pesticide	Form	Application Method	Applied to	Frequency
Fungicide	Solid	Hand	Timber poles	4.5 yearly pole inspections.
Termiticide	Liquid, paste or dust	Either injected directly into the pole, sprayed in small quantities externally (below ground level), or applied in a plastic bandage to the pole base below ground level.	Base of timber pole that is below the ground.	
Herbicide (glyphosate)	Liquid (e.g. Roundup)	Stem injection, sprayed directly onto foliage (subject to weather conditions and label specifications), or cut and paint stump (preferred method).	Foliage having the ability to grow in the clearance zone surrounding overhead powerlines.	As required.
Household insecticides	Aerosol	Spray can.	Incidental infestations of ants, spiders, wasps, cockroaches, etc.	As required.
Rodenticides	Solid baits (e.g. Ratsack)	Placement of baits by hand in designated bait stations.	Infestations of mice and rats.	As required.

Refer to Section 7 for definitions of the pesticides listed above.

## 2.0 Public places covered by this Plan

Endeavour Energy proposes to use pesticides in the following categories of prescribed public places that are either owned by Endeavour Energy or, to the extent that Endeavour Energy is required to carry out its statutory functions in relation to such places used by Endeavour Energy to maintain electricity infrastructure:

- Public parks and gardens;
- Playgrounds;
- Picnic areas;
- Sporting fields, ovals and golf courses;
- Road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways;
- Easements accessible to the public (including National Parks and other lands reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, State Forests and Crown lands); and
- Schools and TAFE facilities (excluding building interiors).

User groups who may access these areas include:

- Children,
- Adults,
- Elderly Persons,
- Workers, and
- Students.

An estimate of the level of community use of the above listed public places, and regular user groups is summarised in Table 2 along with the type of pesticide use in each public place.



**Table 2: Endeavour Energy pesticide usage in relation to public places and their users**

Public Places Used By Endeavour Energy	Regular User Groups	Level Of Access By User Groups	Type Of Pesticide Use
Public Parks and Gardens	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers	High	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Playgrounds	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers	High	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Picnic Areas	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers	High	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Sporting Fields, Ovals and golf courses	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers, Sporting Clubs, School Groups, General recreation, Golfers	High	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers,	Medium	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Easements accessible to the public (including National Parks or other lands reserved under the National Parks & Wildlife Act, State Forests or Crown Lands)	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers, School Groups	Medium to Low	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Schools and TAFE's (excluding building interiors)	Students, Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers	High	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Interiors of certain Endeavour Energy Buildings & Depots	Children, Adults, Elderly, Workers	Medium to Low	9, 10

**Type of pesticide use**

1. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid or paste fungicide inside pole & around pole base (below ground level).
2. Timber pole treatment – hand painted application of liquid fungicide to treat damaged areas of treated poles (typically inside pole).
3. Timber pole treatment – hand application of liquid residual termiticide to soil immediately around pole base (above ground).
4. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid bait termiticide inside plastic bandage (below ground level).
5. Timber pole treatment – hand application of dust termiticide inside pole or inside termite gallery on the pole.
6. Vegetation control – spot or spray application of glyphosate herbicide to vegetation by hand.
7. Vegetation cut stump - spot application of herbicide to cut stumps by hand.
8. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to pole top equipment & inside locked substation cabinets.
9. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to floors, walls, cupboards, etc.
10. Hand application of solid rodenticide baits.

### 3.0 Notification arrangements

This section of the Plan describes how and when Endeavour Energy will provide notice of proposed pesticide use in prescribed public places.

These notification arrangements are based on Endeavour Energy's *risk-based* assessment of:

- The level of usage of prescribed public places 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, pregnant women, sick and elderly people) are likely to use these areas;
- The extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas by the public could lead to some direct contact with pesticides;
- The types of pesticide used;
- Where, how and in what quantities they are applied;
- Where they reside once applied; and
- The resulting accessibility and contact risk to the public.

Notice of types of pesticide use and relevant pesticides applied will be provided by a combination of signs<sup>1</sup> displayed at the site during pesticide application and information on Endeavour Energy's website.

Individuals and organisations may also choose to contact Endeavour Energy to request information about pesticide use in their area by providing an electricity pole number which can be cross-referenced with our database. Contact details are provided in section 6.

In public places where multiple agencies have individual responsibilities for land management and where there are no physical or visible boundaries, the agency undertaking the pesticide application will follow their own Pesticide Use Notification Plan. This will include any incidental pesticide application in such areas.

Table 3 sets out the notification arrangements for Endeavour Energy's pesticide applications.

<sup>1</sup> Signs placed by Endeavour Energy may be removed by unauthorised persons or subjected to vandalism. Whilst Endeavour Energy will make every effort to replace signs removed or vandalised it cannot guarantee that this will occur in all situations.

**Table 3: Notification arrangements for Endeavour Energy pesticide application**

Prescribed public place	Type of pesticide use									
	1. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid or paste fungicide inside pole & around pole base (below ground level).	2. Timber pole treatment – hand painted application of liquid fungicide to treat damaged areas of treated poles (typically inside pole or below ground).	3. Timber pole treatment – hand application of liquid residual termiticide to soil immediately around pole base (above ground).	4. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid bait termiticide inside plastic bandage (below ground level).	5. Timber pole treatment – hand application of dust termiticide inside pole or inside termite gallery on the pole.	6. Vegetation control – spot or spray application of glyphosate herbicide to vegetation by hand.	7. Vegetation cut stump - spot application of herbicide to cut stumps by hand	8. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to pole top equipment & inside locked substation cabinets.	9. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to floors, walls, cupboards, etc.	10. Hand application of solid rodenticide baits
Public Parks and Gardens	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A
Playgrounds	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A
Picnic Areas	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A
Sporting Fields, Ovals and golf courses	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A
Road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	N/A	N/A
Network assets & easements accessible to the public (including National Parks etc, State Forests or Crown Lands)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	N/A	N/A
Schools and TAFE's (excluding building interiors)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A
Interiors of certain Endeavour Energy Buildings & Depots	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	✗	✗	✗
Within or adjacent to Sensitive Places	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	N/A	N/A

✓ - Notice by display of signage during the pesticide application.

✗ - No specific notice will be given

N/A - Not applicable

**3.1 Emergency pesticide applications**

In cases where emergency pesticide applications in public places are required to manage biting or dangerous pests (such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents), Endeavour Energy will provide notice by posting signs nearby at the time of the application, where possible. If this is not possible, Endeavour Energy will provide information via the employee / contractor applying the pesticide, upon request.

**3.2 Pesticide contractors and lessees of public places**

Where Endeavour Energy engages contractors to apply pesticides on its behalf, we will ensure that notification is made by the contractors in accordance with the requirements of this Plan.

Where persons or organisations hold an existing lease on Endeavour Energy land that remains a public place and if they use pesticides in this area, Endeavour Energy will require notification in accordance with the requirements of this plan.

**3.3 When notification will not be provided**

Other than information provided on Endeavour Energy’s website and unless stated elsewhere in this Plan, Endeavour Energy does not intend to provide notice for the following pesticide applications (numbering system from Table 2 continued).

**1. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid or paste fungicide inside pole & around pole base (below ground level)**

Generally, the amount of pesticides used for each treatment of an Endeavour Energy timber pole is small. All pesticides are applied by competent trained staff or contractors who are qualified in accordance with the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*. All timber pole treatments are recorded in Endeavour Energy’s asset management system.

**2. Timber pole treatment – hand painted application of liquid fungicide to treat damaged areas of treated poles (typically inside pole or below ground)**

Application of solid and/or paste fungicide occurs either within the pole itself and/or around the pole base beneath the soil. The solid fungicides are either small rods (about the size, shape and consistency of a large piece of blackboard chalk) placed inside holes drilled into the timber poles (the holes are plugged afterwards) or small pellets of the same material contained inside a plastic bandage that is wrapped around the base of the pole, below ground level. The paste is injected into any holes in the

timber and is also wrapped on a bandage around the pole base, all below ground level. The pesticide consists of naturally occurring minerals salts to control rot in the timber. The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no significant fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

Application of liquid fungicide paint to damaged poles occurs by hand using a paint brush where several teaspoons of fungicide paint is applied to scarred areas of a timber pole beneath the damaged sapwood. This is done to repair mechanical damage from car accidents and the like. The paint is absorbed into the timber fibres and dries quickly. The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no significant fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

**3. Timber pole treatment – hand application of liquid residual termiticide to soil immediately around pole base (above ground)**

Notification for this treatment will not be provided where the pesticide application occurs in areas where the frequency of access by the public and duration of exposure are not high. This includes: road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways and easements accessible to the public (including National Parks etc, State Forests or Crown Lands).

**4. Timber pole treatment – hand application of solid bait termiticide inside plastic bandage (below ground level)**

Application of solid bait termiticide is done by hand and involves placing two sealed plastic bags of termiticide inside a protective container secured and sealed to the timber pole. The container cover is secured using tamper-resistant fixings and is sealed against weather ingress. The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

**5. Timber pole treatment – hand application of dust termiticide inside pole or inside termite gallery on the pole**

Notification for this treatment will not be provided where the pesticide application occurs in areas where the frequency of access by the public and duration of exposure are not high. This includes: road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways and easements accessible to the public (including National Parks etc, State Forests or Crown Lands).

**7. Vegetation cut stump - spot application of herbicide to cut stumps by hand**

Notification for this treatment will not be provided where the pesticide application occurs in areas where the frequency of access by the public and duration of exposure are not high. This includes: road verges, reserves, footpaths, laneways and pathways and easements accessible to the public (including National Parks, State Forests or Crown Lands).

**8. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to pole top equipment & inside locked substation cabinets**

Application by hand of aerosol insecticides occurs on pole top equipment (approximately 10 m above ground) or inside the locked cabinets of ground level substations to remove insect pests such as wasps, spiders or ants that could potentially pose a threat to staff or contractors who need to work on the equipment, or possibly to members of the public in the vicinity of the equipment. These insecticides are readily available products and are applied to a very localised area with no general access to the public. The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no significant fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

**9 &10. Hand application of aerosol insecticide spray to floors, walls, cupboards, etc; and hand application of solid rodenticide baits**

Application by hand of aerosol insecticides spray and rodenticide baits inside Endeavour Energy buildings and Depots is typically done outside of business hours to reduce potential risks to staff or to the public (in those limited areas accessible to the public). The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no significant ongoing fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

**Other**

Spot weed control or cut stump applications inside Endeavour Energy Depots and Substations is done by hand using domestically available pesticides and typically occurs in areas not accessible to the public. The opportunity for contact with the general public during application is negligible as there are no significant ongoing fumes, vapours, mists or spray drifts and the pesticides are not reasonably accessible following application.

## 4.0 What information will be provided

In accordance with clause 20(1) (h) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2009*, notices of proposed pesticide use will include all of the following information:

- Full product name of the pesticide to be used;
- Purpose of the use, clearly setting out what pest or pests are being treated;
- Proposed date(s) or date range of the pesticide use;
- Place where the pesticide is to be used;
- Contact telephone number and email address of the Endeavour Energy or contractor representative who can be contacted to discuss the notice;
- Any warnings regarding re-entry to, or use of, the place of application specified on the product label or the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) permit.

Signs will be of a standardised design that will be easily recognisable to the public and workers.

As previously mentioned, Endeavour Energy's website will have a dedicated area that describes its programmed, reactive and, if practicable, emergency pesticide use in public places. A link will be provided to this notification Plan and the relevant website address will be publicised.

## 5.0 How the community will be informed of the Plan and any future revisions

The community can access the Plan from the Endeavour Energy website at [www.endeavourenergy.com.au](http://www.endeavourenergy.com.au)

Endeavour Energy will advise the community of any future significant revisions of the Plan, by:

- Making a copy of the plan available for public viewing free of charge in Endeavour Energy's main offices, during office hours, at:  
51 Huntingwood Drive, Huntingwood NSW 2148.
- Placing a copy of the plan on the Endeavour Energy website at [www.endeavourenergy.com.au](http://www.endeavourenergy.com.au)
- Placing a notice in
  - The *Daily Telegraph*, and
  - The *Illawarra Mercury*.
- Letter to General Managers of relevant Local Authorities.

## 6.0 Contact details

Anyone wishing to contact Endeavour Energy to discuss the Plan, provide comments or to obtain specific details of pesticide applications in public places should contact:

Environmental Business Partner Team Leader  
Endeavour Energy  
PO Box 811  
Seven Hills NSW 1730

Phone: 131 081



## 7.0 Definitions

**Pesticide:** Any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. A pesticide can be a naturally derived or synthetically produced substance. Pesticides include, but are not limited to, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, termiticides and rodenticides. Under the NSW *Pesticides Act 1999*, a pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the Commonwealth *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*, namely: 'a substance or mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- a. destroying, stupefying, repelling, inhibiting the feeding of, or preventing infestation by or attacks of, any pest in relation to a plant, a place or a thing; or
- b. destroying a plant; or
- c. modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity; or
- d. modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product; or
- e. attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.'

**Herbicide:** These destroy, suppress or prevent the spread of a weed or other unwanted vegetation; for example, the herbicide glyphosate is used to control a range of weeds in home gardens, bushland and agricultural situations.

**Insecticide:** These destroy, suppress, stupefy, inhibit the feeding of, or prevent infestations or attacks by, an insect. Insecticides are used to control a wide variety of insect pests, including thrips, aphids, moths, fruit flies and locusts. In NSW, pesticides include products such as flea powders and liquids used externally on animals. Injections or other medicines administered internally to treat animals are veterinary medicines and are excluded.

**Fungicide:** These control, destroy, render ineffective or regulate the effect of a fungus; for example, fungicides are used to treat grey mould on grape vines and fruit trees.

**Termiticide:** Insecticide used to control termites.

**Rodenticide:** Pesticide used in the control or eradication of rodents such as mice and rats.

**Prescribed public place (in accordance with clause 39 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*):**

- a. Any of the following to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee):
  - i. any public garden;
  - ii. any picnic area;
  - iii. any playground;
  - iv. any park, sporting field or oval;

- v. any public land owned or controlled by a public authority (for example, a road verge, rail easement or an easement for electricity purposes or for the purposes of other utilities);
  - vi. any land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or any State forest or Crown land; or
- b. The grounds of any government school (within the meaning of the *Education Act 1990*) or any establishment maintained by the Technical and Further Education Commission, but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place.

**Sensitive place (in accordance with clause 39 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*):**

- a. any school or pre-school, or
- b. any kindergarten, or
- c. any childcare centre, or
- d. any hospital, or
- e. any community health centre, or
- f. any nursing home, or
- g. any place declared to be a sensitive place by the Environment Protection Authority by notice in the Gazette.

**Network assets:** Means all components of the Endeavour Energy overhead network, such as poles (either wood, concrete or steel), conductors / wires (either bare or covered), structures such as lattice steel towers or support structures in switchyards, switchyard fencing, transformers and associated switchgear, insulators and crossarms, brackets and associated mounting hardware, streetlight lanterns etc. Buildings that form part of switchyards, and covering structures such as padmount and switchgear cubicles, are also included.