

Pesticide Use

Head of Power

Local Government Act 2009

Related Legislation

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Objective

To provide a consistent standard for the use of pesticides by the Moreton Bay Regional Council in its operations.

Definitions

ACDC Act means the *Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966*.

APVMA is the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority.

Chemical means a substance produced by or used in a chemical process.

Employee means all employees of Council, whether employed on a permanent, temporary, or part-time basis and includes volunteers and employees of businesses and entities contracted to provide services to, or on behalf of Council.

Hazardous Area as defined by the ACDC Act for the restriction on use of certain pesticides.

Operator means a person applying pesticides, and encompasses all employees.

Pest means harmful or nuisance organisms, including weeds, certain animals such as rodents and crop insects, plant pathogenic fungi and viruses.

Pesticide means a substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. A pesticide may be a chemical, biological agent, antimicrobial, disinfectant or device used against any pest.

Permit is issued by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for the off-label use of a registered agricultural or veterinary chemical product (that is a use that is not covered by an instruction on the approved product label).

Weed means a plant growing wild, especially in cultivated ground to the exclusion or injury of the desired crop. Any useless, troublesome, or noxious plant, especially one that grows profusely.

Application

This policy applies to all employees that use pesticides as part of their operations.

Policy Statement

This policy sets out the standards for pesticide use by Council employees.

Use of appropriate registered chemical products

Products used will be appropriate to the pest that needs to be controlled, and approved by the APVMA. This information is available from the product label and the Biosecurity Queensland website.

Label Directions

Label directions are to be followed. If the product needs to be used under different conditions than those specified on the label, a permit from the APVMA is required.

Licensing

All operators working for Council must have a commercial operator's licence and/or a ground distribution contractor licence as required under the ACDC Act and a record of the licence number kept on file. Contractors are required to include licence information in all tendering information and must update Council with new employee details.

Workplace Health and Safety

Material safety data sheets (MSDS) must be kept up-to-date and stored by the Workplace Health & Safety (WH&S) adviser for the relevant area, as required. Chemical registers must be maintained for chemical storage, and included as part of the WH&S inspection program.

Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) will be supplied to employees working with pesticides, to be used at all times during pesticide application.

Pesticide Spray Notification

Appropriate signage must be placed in areas where pesticide application is occurring and removed once work is complete. Moving vehicles must display signage on the vehicle indicating pesticide application is in use.

No individual notification will be given to residents about Council's spray program.

Application Equipment

Council will ensure that regular servicing of equipment used for pesticide application is undertaken and a record of the serviced equipment maintained. All equipment used during pesticide application must be suitable to the task of the particular pest control situation.

Chemical Application Record

The chemical use application form used by Council includes all information required under the ACDC Act. This form must be completed for all work requiring the use of chemicals and will be stored for at least two years, as required under the ACDC Act.

Pesticide Reduction

As part of Council's commitment to the environment, new techniques which reduce the use of pesticides will be considered as they become available to control pests. Council will seek permits from the APVMA if it intends to conduct research into new products and off-label use.

Council is within the Hazardous Area No 1 as determined by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and therefore has stopped the use of Picloram (trade name Grazon) and Ester formulation of 2,4D or MCPA.

Related Documents

This policy complements and is to be implemented in conjunction with other Council policies and directives, including but not limited to:

Policy Directive 2160-024 - Pesticide Use

Review and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed for applicability, effectiveness, and consistency with relevant legislation, Council resolutions, and other Council documents. Reviews of this policy will occur as required, or at least once every four years.

Responsibility

This Policy is to be:

- (1) implemented by the Manager Environmental Services; and
- (2) reviewed and amended in accordance with the "Review Triggers" by the Director, Community and Environmental Services.

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Pesticide Use - Regional			
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