



GREATER
SYDNEY
PARKLANDS

Greater Sydney Parklands

Pesticide Use Notification Plan 2023

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Table of Contents

SUMMARY	3
1. BACKGROUND	4
1.1 Public places covered by this Plan	4
2. PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY	6
3. PESTICIDE USE WITHIN GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS	7
4. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY	8
5. DEFINITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS	8
6. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS	9
6.1 Places for which notification will be provided	10
6.2 Content of notification signs	10
7. PLAN AVAILABILITY AND REVIEW	10

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Comments
0.1	13/07/2023	Zach Muldoon	Draft Plan for GSP
0.2	1/09/2023	Zach Muldoon	Draft Plan reviewed by internal team
1.0	24/10/2023	Zach Muldoon	Preparation of Final Plan with consideration of public comments

SUMMARY

Purpose

To identify policy and legislative requirements applicable to pesticide application within Greater Sydney Parklands (GSP).

Scope

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan applies to staff, contractors and volunteers commissioning or applying 'pesticides' within GSP's parklands estate.

- 'Pesticides' means 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.
- Under the *NSW Pesticides Act 1999*, pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994*. Definition of pesticide covers bactericides, baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides and repellents. Pesticides are used in commercial, domestic, urban and rural environments but exclude pesticides used within a swimming pool or spa.

Required action

This Plan must be implemented by staff responsible for commissioning or conducting pesticide applications within GSP's parklands estate.

Penalties apply for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

1. BACKGROUND

This Pesticide Use Notification Plan has been developed and reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*. The intention of the Plan is to ensure the community is notified in accordance with this Notification Plan when pesticides are used within GSP's parklands estate. Notifying the community is best practice in pesticide management. It allows the community to choose to reduce their exposure to pesticides if they wish and take action to avoid contact with pesticides.

It also identifies other legislative requirements under the *Pesticides Act 1999* and *Pesticides Regulation 2017* applicable to GSP's operations, with the objective of promoting legal compliance and best practice environmental management, its contractors and lessees engaged in the application of pesticides.

GSP is responsible for the long-term strategic planning of the parklands estate, as well as the operational day-to-day management of Western Sydney Parklands, Parramatta Park and Wistaria Gardens, Callan Park, Centennial Park, Moore Park, Queens Park, and Fernhill Estate.

1.1 Public places covered by this Plan

GSP proposes to use or allow the use of pesticides in the following categories of outdoor public places that it owns or controls:

- Public gardens / parks
- Playgrounds / picnic areas
- Sporting fields and ovals
- Road verges and reserves
- Laneways and pathways
- Drains, waterways and waterbodies
- Golf courses
- Other sporting facilities (i.e. tennis courts, netball courts, athletics fields, equestrian centres)
- Other public places (i.e. restaurants, cafés, shops)
- Natural areas – bushland, wetlands etc
- Amenity buildings.

The estimated level of community use, regular user groups and the types of pesticide use in each of these categories of public places is summarised in the following table.

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use	Type of pesticide use
Public gardens / Parks	General public Sports teams Tourists Families and children	High	Spot herbicides Selective herbicides Spot insecticides Fungicides
Picnic areas / Playgrounds	General public Tourists Families and children	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Spray ant control
Sporting fields and ovals	General public Organised sporting clubs and associations School sports groups Intermittent organised event related users	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad scale selective herbicide Broad scale insecticides
Road verges and reserves	General public Sports teams Tourists Families and children Event attendees Contractors and/or neighbours Staff and volunteers	High	Spot herbicides
Laneways and pathways	General public (i.e. walkers, runners, cyclists, drivers)	High	Spot herbicides
Drains, waterways and waterbodies	Contractors Neighbours Staff and Volunteers	Low	Broad scale non-selective herbicides Spot herbicides
Golf course	Golfers General passive recreational users	High	Spot herbicides Spot insecticides Broad scale selective herbicides Broad scale insecticides Fungicides Nematicides
Other sporting facilities (i.e. tennis courts, netball courts, athletics field, equestrian centre)	School user groups Sporting clubs and associations Horse riders / horse trainers General patrons	High	Spot herbicides (surrounds) Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Spray ant control Bait ant control Bait termiticides Spray termiticides

Public places	Regular user groups	Level of use	Type of pesticide use
Other public places (i.e. restaurants and Cafés, shops)	Restaurant diners and café visitors	High	Spot herbicides (surrounds) Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Spray ant control Bait ant control Bait termiticides Spray termiticides
Natural areas – bushland, wetlands etc (publicly accessible)	General public Contractors Staff and volunteers	Medium	Spot herbicides Broad scale selective herbicides
Natural areas – bushland, wetlands etc (not publicly accessible)	Contractors Neighbours Staff and volunteers	Low	Spot herbicides Broad scale selective herbicides
Amenity buildings	General public Sporting groups and associations	High	Spot herbicides (surrounds) Spot insecticides Bait rodenticides Spray termiticides Bait ant control

2. PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Pest management programs will generally focus on prevention followed by early control of new infestations. For established pest populations it may be necessary to aim to achieve a realistic level of control rather than eradication, use low environmental impact control techniques, operate at optimum treatment times, and give greater weight to long term implications rather than short term convenience.

Matters to be considered in developing and conducting pest management programs will feature industry best practice guidelines regarding environmental condition and will include:

- maintaining landscape health and integrity to minimise pest, weed or disease outbreaks
- visitor amenity and visitor safety, this includes the use of marker dye in pesticide herbicide mix

- use of hygiene practices to prevent the introduction of new pests and diseases to the Parklands, and/or their spread within the Parklands
- the need to reduce the impacts of pest or disease outbreaks
- selecting the lowest toxicity pesticide suited to the task; opportunities for integrated control methods, and availability of biological or non-chemical treatments
- workplace health and safety including the mandatory reporting of all spill incidents
- welfare issues of pest animal control
- environmental protection (particularly waterways), and ecological implications for co-occurring species and communities
- long-term sustainable management strategies, and
- legislative obligations for pest control and for pesticide use and management.

3. PESTICIDE USE WITHIN GREATER SYDNEY PARKLANDS

GSP or its contractors use pesticides on its lands to treat pests, weeds and diseases. All work is conducted in accordance with safety and environmental standards. An integrated approach is applied to ensure pesticides are used only when necessary in an effort to protect the environment, to protect assets and to minimise the public's potential exposure to chemicals.

Pesticides typically used within the parklands estate are:

- selective and non-selective herbicides used for weed control, commonly applied by spray, injection or paint techniques, and sometimes by vehicle-mounted spray equipment.
- insecticides used in and around buildings and structures to control pests such as cockroaches, ants, wasps, and spiders, applied by spray treatment, or solid baits or powders.
- insecticides used to treat outbreaks of plant pests.
- solid rodenticides used within buildings and locked structures such as barbeques and irrigation boxes.
- selective pesticides for pest control on sports fields and turf areas, generally applied by vehicle mounted equipment.

Other types of pesticides may be used on occasion to address particular pest issues.

4. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Staff responsible for commissioning or conducting pesticide applications within GSP must:

1. Ensure pesticide application programs are developed and implemented consistent with any current Pest Management Policy.
2. Ensure contractors, staff and volunteers undertaking pesticide application on behalf of GSP:
 - comply with any identified restrictions on pesticide use specified
 - protect the environment and minimise impacts on waterways and all non-target species
 - handle and apply pesticides in accordance with requirements of the *Pesticides Act 1999*, *Pesticides Regulation 2017*, *Work Health & Safety Act 2011*, *Work Health & Safety Regulations 2017*, *Safe use of pesticides including herbicides in non-agricultural workplaces Code of Practice 2006*
 - hold appropriate licenses and qualifications as specified in clause 31 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*
 - make and provide records of pesticide application in accordance with clause 26 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* as required depending on application methods utilised, and
 - provide public notification consistent with this Plan whenever pesticides are applied in 'prescribed public places' as required by clause 40 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*
3. Retain a copy of pesticide application records received from contractors and staff on a centralised file that will be kept for three years as specified in clauses 37 and 51 of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*.

Tools available to assist in implementation of this Plan include a template for recording pesticide application. Contractor use of this template is optional but any form used by the contractor must fulfill the statutory application reporting provisions consistent with current accreditation. (See Attachment 1).

5. DEFINITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS

Pesticides means any substance or mixture of substances used to destroy, suppress or alter the life cycle of any pest. A pesticide is an 'agricultural chemical product' as defined in the *Pesticides Act 1999*, and includes bactericides, baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides and repellents. An 'agricultural chemical product' is defined in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* (Commonwealth) to be a substance or a mixture of substances that is represented, imported, manufactured, supplied or used as a means of directly or indirectly:

- 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
- destroying a plant, or
- modifying the physiology of a plant or pest so as to alter its natural development, productivity, quality or reproductive capacity, or
- modifying an effect of another agricultural chemical product, or
- attracting a pest for the purpose of destroying it.

Small-scale use exemptions from qualification and record-keeping requirements apply [*Pesticides Regulation 2017* clause 4 and 37] if the pesticide meets all of the following:

- is widely available to the general public at retail outlets,
- is ordinarily used for domestic purposes;
- is being applied by hand or hand-held applicator and
 - for outside use – no more than 20 litres or 20 kilograms of ‘ready-to-use’ product or 5 litres or 5 kilograms of concentrated product is being used, or
 - for inside use – no more than 5 litres or 5 kilograms of ‘ready-to-use’ product or 1 litre or 1 kilogram of concentrated product is being used.

Use of pesticides in a swimming pool or spa is exempt from the requirements of this Plan [*Pesticides Regulation 2017* clause 32(2); clause 35(2); clause 40(1)].

6. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS

‘Prescribed public places’ are places where the *Pesticides Regulation 2017* (clause 39) requires GSP to provide public notification of pesticide use.

Prescribed public places are:

1. any of the following to which the public is entitled to have access (whether or not on payment of a fee);
 - a. A public garden, picnic area, playground, park, sporting field or oval;
 - b. 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);
 - c. Land reserved under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* or any State Forest or Crown land, or
2. The grounds of any government school, but does not include the inside of any building or structure located at such a place.

GSP will provide public notification about proposed pesticide use in public areas by erecting appropriate signage providing notice of pesticide application.

6.1 Places for which notification will be provided

Table 1 identifies the categories of places and circumstances in which GSP will and will not provide public notification of pesticide use. Notification arrangements detailed in this table are based on the GSP's assessment of:

- the level of usage of 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, sick, pregnant and elderly people) are likely to use these areas;
- the extent to which activities generally undertaken in these areas could lead to some direct contact with pesticides (such as picnic areas where food is consumed; sporting or other recreational activities that result in contact with the ground); and
- type of pesticide used.

6.2 Content of notification signs

Signs notifying the public of pesticide use must include the following information (as per clause 41 (1) (h) of the *Pesticides Regulation 2017*):

- full product name of the pesticide to be used;
- purpose of the use, identifying the pest or pests being treated;
- date or dates of pesticide use;
- places where the pesticide is to be used;
- any warnings regarding re-entry to or use of the place, if such warnings are specified on the product label or permit, and
- contact telephone number or email address of who can be contacted to discuss the notice.

7. PLAN AVAILABILITY AND REVIEW

The Pesticide Use Notification Plan will be listed on the following websites:

- <https://www.westernsydneyparklands.com.au/>
- <https://www.parrapark.com.au/>
- <https://www.centennialparklands.com.au/>
- <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/park-management/callan-park>

The current Plan was prepared in July 2023 following the establishment of GSP and to enable the alignment of the Centennial Park Pesticide Notification Plan, the Western Sydney Pesticide Use Notification Plan and the Parramatta Park Pesticide Use Notification Plan into one agency wide plan. The next review will be

implemented in July 2028 unless there are substantial changes in the plan or the regulatory requirements which requires preparation of a new plan.

Please contact GSP for further information on pesticide applications within the parklands.

Email:

Parramatta Park: info@ppt.nsw.gov.au

Western Sydney Parklands: info@wspt.nsw.gov.au

Centennial Parklands, info@centennialparklands.com.au

Callan Park: callan.park@environment.nsw.gov.au

Fernhill Estate: info@wspt.nsw.gov.au

Table 1 – Public notification arrangements for pesticide application in public places within Greater Sydney Parklands’ parklands estate

Public place category	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide typically used	Notification arrangements / controls
When notification will not be provided	<p>Public notification will not be provided in any category of public place (including sensitive areas) where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pesticides are used in small quantities and readily available from retail outlets to the general public for the control of pests for which they are registered, for example, small quantities (less than 20 litres of ‘ready-to use’ spray mix) pesticide applied by a hand-held applicator, or by paint or injection techniques, and the minor control of indoor and outdoor pests using baits or hand-held aerosols; • public access is excluded by fencing, or that are remote from public pathways and facilities e.g. bushland and estuarine areas more than 20m from public pathways; • application of pesticides is via sub-surface irrigation systems; • application of pesticides into water features for the purposes of algal and bacterial control, and where • persons or organisations hold a lease on Greater Sydney Parklands Trust land that remains a public place. These public places will include, but are not limited to, Calmsley Hill City Farm, Western Sydney International Dragway, Eastern Creek Raceway, Nurragingy Reserve, Sydney International Shooting Centre, Sydney International Equestrian Centre, the Royal Cricketers Arms and Plough & Harrow Kiosk. For further details please refer to GSP Lease Register. For these places, GSP will not provide notification of pesticide use but will request the lessee to carry out notification of the pesticide use in a manner consistent with this Plan. 			
All general parklands areas with no formalised picnic facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational park users • Event crowds • School groups • Tourists 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides • Insecticides • Algaecides 	<p>Where feasible, areas will be closed to public access during pesticide application or treatment will be scheduled to avoid peak visitation times.</p> <p>Clearly visible signs (see section 6.2 for content) will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated just prior to application and remain until the following day.</p>
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational park users • Young children 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides • Insecticides 	
Formalised picnic areas, picnic shelters & barbeques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational park users 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spot herbicides • Spot insecticides • Bait rodenticides 	

Public place category	Regular user groups	Level of use of public place	Type of pesticide typically used	Notification arrangements / controls
Pathways & cycleways (including the Parklands Track)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users 	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides 	Where feasible, areas will be closed to public access during pesticide application or treatment will be scheduled to avoid peak visitation times.
Road verges and median strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational park users 	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides 	Clearly visible signs (see section 6.2 for content) will be placed in the immediate vicinity of the area being treated just prior to application and remain until the following day.
Special measures in sensitive areas. Within 20m of a common boundary of education & field studies centre, any new schools, childcare centres or hospital built subsequent to this Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students & infants Recreational park users. 	Medium/ High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herbicides Insecticides 	Details of pesticides to be used by GSP or its agents within 20m of “sensitive places” will be provided in writing to facility operators 48 hours in advance of intended treatments. Notification signs will be placed during application as identified above. Where feasible, application will only occur when such centres are not being utilised. (eg school holidays).
Emergency application – all areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable 	Variable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As required to deal with biting or dangerous pests such as wasps, bees, venomous spiders, fleas, bird mites or rodents (that cause an immediate health hazard.) 	Where possible the public will be excluded from the area to be treated for the duration of treatment. Where the public is not excluded, members of the public within the treatment area will be verbally notified and notification signs will be displayed during application.

Attachment 1: Pesticide Application Record



GREATER
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PARKLANDS

Pesticide Application Record

This sheet is to be used in all cases where pesticides are applied

Location, Applicator, Date of Application

Property ID: (Address or property location description)		Date:										
Applicator's Full Name:		Owner (if not applicator)										
Address:		Address:										
Phone:		Phone:										
Mobile:	Fax:	Mobile:	Fax:									
Email:		Email:										
Sensitive Areas (including distance, buffers)		Comments (including risk control measures for sensitive areas)										
<table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td>N</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>W</td> <td>Treated Area</td> <td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>S</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			N		W	Treated Area	E		S			
	N											
W	Treated Area	E										
	S											

Pest ID and Environment

Pest name: (e.g. wasp, bee, blackberry, clover)	Pest Location: Locality and situation. (eg P&H East, shelter 3)
Estimated Density of infestation: Heavy <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/>	(tick estimate)
Location Description: (e.g. under shelter seat, open grass land, base of tree)	

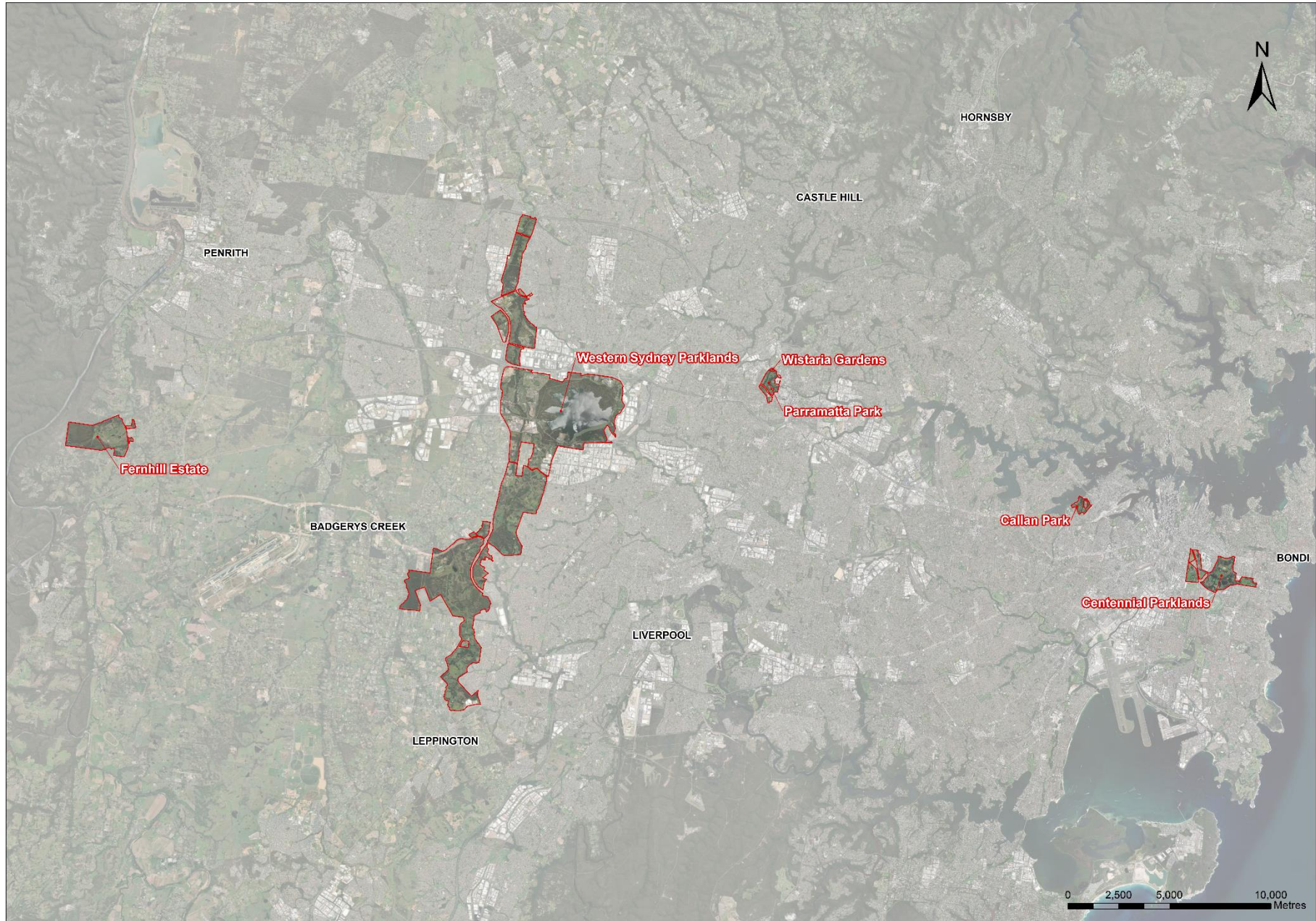
Application data

Full Label Product Name:	Rate/Dose:	Water rate L/ha:
Permit Number:	Expiry date:	Additive/Wetting Agent:
Total L or kg:	Equipment Type:	Nozzle Type: Nozzle Angle:
Pressure:	Date last calibrated	Water Quality (pH or description)

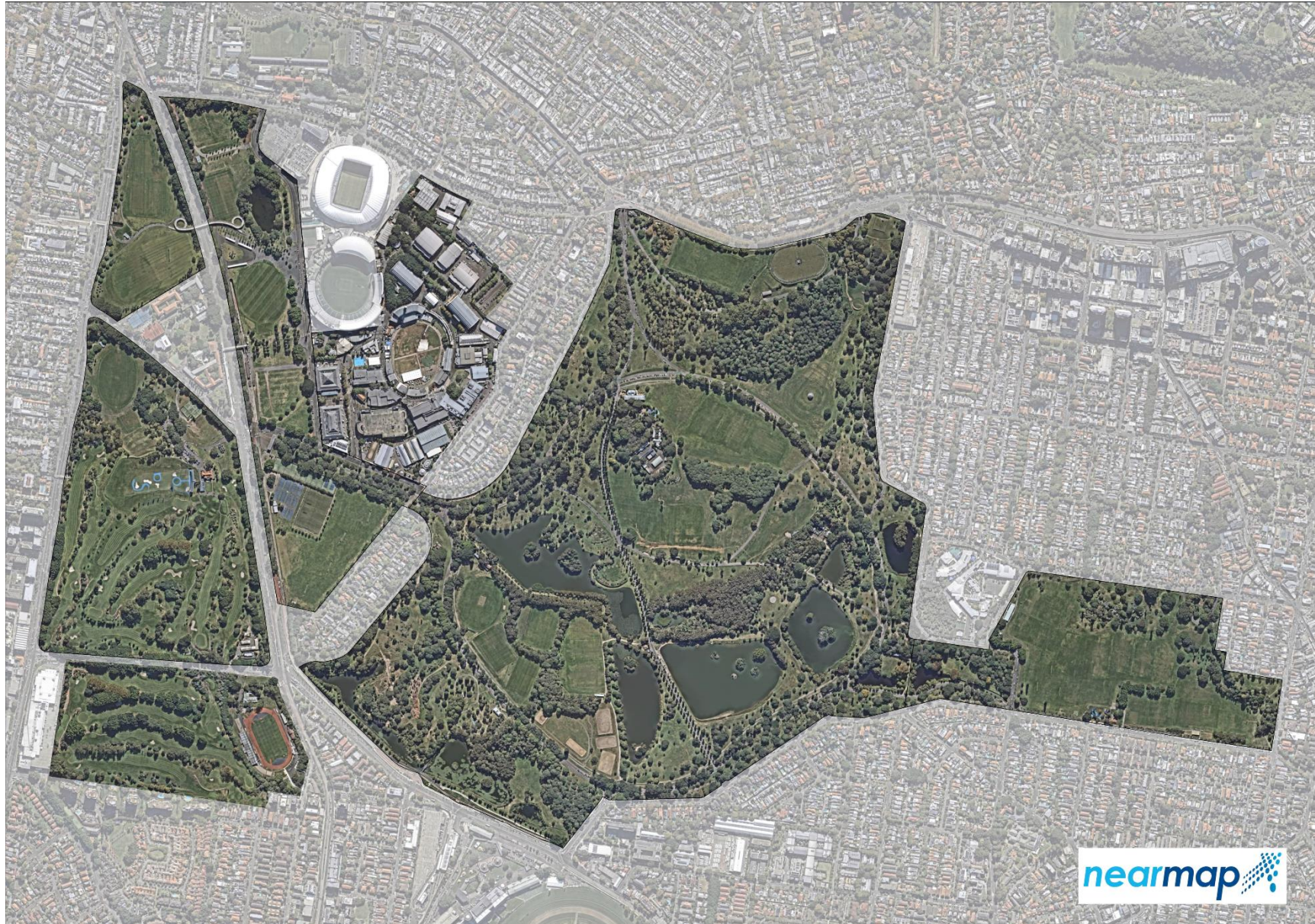
Weather

Showers <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Sky <input type="checkbox"/>	Overcast <input type="checkbox"/>	Light Cloud <input type="checkbox"/>			
Rainfall (24 hours before and after)					
Before: mm	During: mm	After: mm			
Time	Temperature °C	RH (%)	Wind Speed	Direction	Variability (e.g. gusting)
Start					
Finish					
Comments:					

Attachment 2: Areas to which this Plan applies



Greater Sydney Parklands Estate



Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park



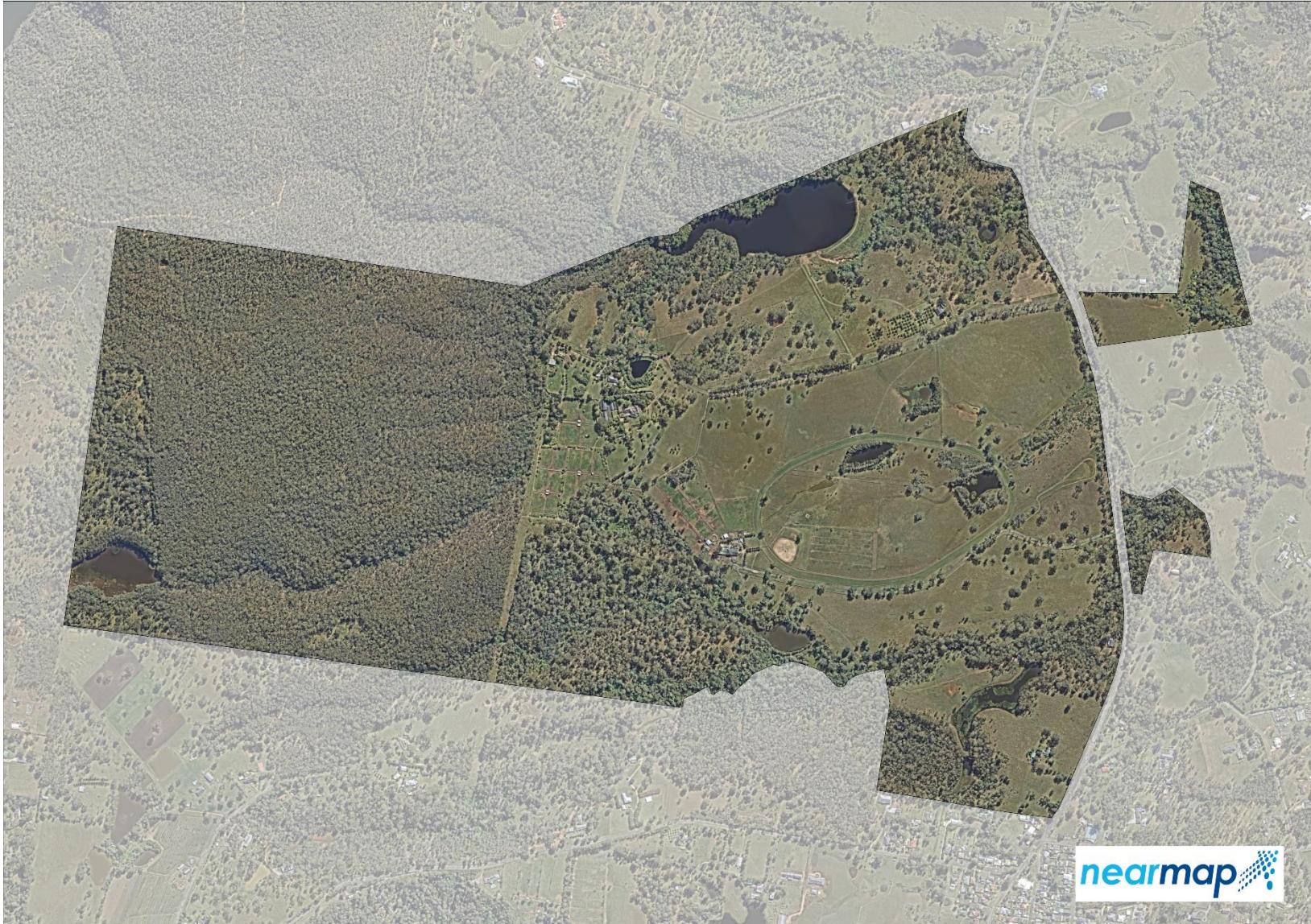
Callan Park



Parramatta Park



Western Sydney Parklands



Fernhill Estate