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**Policy:**

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**Integrated Pest  
Management Policy**

**Draft April 2018**

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## INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

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### ***Further Document Information and Relationships***

*List here the related strategies, procedures, references, policy or other documents that have a bearing on this Policy and that may be useful reference material for users of this Policy.*

<b>Related Legislation*</b>	<p>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Administration Act 1992  Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994  Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016  Biosecurity Act 2015 &amp; Biosecurity Regulations 2017  Companion Animal Act 1998  Crown Land Management Act 2016  Crown Land Legislation Amendment Act 2017  Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979  Forestry and National Park Estate Act 1998  Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 &amp; Game and Feral Animal Control Regulations 2012  Local Government Act 1993  Local Land Services Act 2013  National Parks &amp; Wildlife Act 1974  NSW Pesticide Act 1999 &amp; Pesticide Regulation 2017  Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979  Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997  Roads Act 1993  Work Health and Safety Act (2011) &amp; Work Health and Safety Regulations (2017)</p>
<b>Related Policies</b>	<p>State Environmental Planning Policy No. 19  Camphor Laurel Management In Byron Shire Policy  Personal Protective Equipment Policy 2016  Byron Shire Work Health &amp; Safety Policy</p>
<b>Related Procedures/ Protocols, Statements, documents</b>	<p>Byron Shire Integrated Pest Management Strategy (in prep)  Byron Shire Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-23 (in prep)  Byron Shire Council Pesticide Use Notification Plan  Byron Shire Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2012  Byron Shire Tree and Vegetation Removal Procedure 2017</p>

	Byron Shire Chemical Sensitive Residents and Organic Growers Register National Standards For The Practice Of Ecological Restoration In Australia 2017 North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-22 North Coast Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan 2018-23 (in prep) AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees - SAI Global
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*Note: Any reference to Legislation will be updated in the Policy as required. See website <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/> for current Acts, Regulations and Environmental Planning Instruments.*



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pest management is a reality for all local government, whether for the purposes of our economy, infrastructure protection, the protection of the environment or community health and welfare. Pest management must therefore aim for the efficient and effective control of pests while avoiding any adverse effects of that management on economy, public assets, ecosystems and people.

The Integrated Pest Management concept has been promoted since the 1970s by scientists and managers to encourage the efficiency and effectiveness of pest management while reducing or eliminating adverse impacts of pest management activities, particularly any arising from the unnecessary or inappropriate use of pesticide. This concept has subsequently been widely accepted as a mainstream approach in the management of production and amenity landscapes around the world.

As a result of growing concerns about health and environmental problems associated with pesticide use, Council resolved (Resolution 13-621) in November 2013 (the Resolution) to develop an integrated pest management policy and strategy.

The Resolution called for the vision of an Integrated Pest Management Policy (Policy). To meet the pest management requirements of such a policy while reflecting three aspirations summarised as: (i) cessation of the use of herbicide (and repetitive use of pesticides for managing pest animals) in highly frequented public use area; (ii) promotion of integrated pest management using methods with least adverse effect on human health and environment; and, (iii) promotion of the responsible pesticide use on private land e.g. organic farmers in the Shire. The Resolution also called for the Policy to include a statement outlining desired outcomes.

Implementation of the Resolution commenced immediately, along with preliminary drafting of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (preliminary draft IPM Strategy). It has become clear that some impediments exist in implementing the Resolution. This is particularly with respect to relative environmental costs and benefits of complete pesticide cessation and balancing these with Council's obligations relating to public safety, biosecurity and protection of infrastructure.

These impediments have been considered in an *Integrated Pest Management Directions Document* (Directions Document) that identified opportunities to carry out the control of pests in Byron Shire in a manner that supports the intent of the original Resolution while setting it in a more practical and secure long-term policy framework.

This draft Integrated Pesticide Use Policy (Policy) is therefore based on the recommendations of the Directions Document, which accompanies the 6 week exhibition period of the Policy.

## 2. GOAL

To attain optimal outcomes for the responsible use of pesticides on Council-managed land in Byron Shire.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1.** Provide a workable framework, consistent with the intent of Council Resolution 13-621, for the management of pests:

- to cease the use of pesticide in high public use areas on Council-managed areas, and
- to minimise the use in other areas on a continuous improvement basis,

whilst also enabling Council to use a pesticide where required under the circumstances to meet Council's obligations to public safety, biosecurity and the maintenance of infrastructure in a manner that minimises adverse effect on affect human health and the environment.

**Objective 2.** Provide guidance for the development of an Integrated Pest Management Strategy (IPM Strategy) that will include procedures for assuring that the latest information is incorporated into pest management decisions by Council staff, which results in efficient, effective and low hazard resolution of pest problems in a manner that meets public expectations to the extent possible and practicable.

**Objective 3.** Provide employees with pest management training, including pest identification, diagnostic skills and use of alternative pest control methods.

### **Objective 1. Provide a workable framework consistent with the intent of Council Resolution 13-621**

The Directions Document shows that the control of pests without the use of pesticides in town and village centres (excluding roundabouts), children's playgrounds, formal bus stops may be attainable without unacceptable cost to public amenity and resources, at this time. It also shows, however, that suitable alternative are not necessarily available and that sometimes the risk (to the safety of operators, environment or service provision) of not using pesticide is higher than the potential negative impacts of using pesticides judiciously. For this reason, a strategy of 'continuous improvement' is to be applied to all pesticide minimisation areas to allow staff to use pesticides for the benefits they offer society while continuously drawing on improved technologies, new knowledge and innovative procedures to replace pesticides with lower risk alternatives to the extent possible and practicable.

Complete cessation of pesticide use is not always consistent with:

- the maintenance of public safety (e.g. where weeds block road safety infrastructure or sightlines on roadsides)
- biosecurity (e.g. where a serious pest species requires a rapid and secure response), and
- protection of infrastructure (e.g. drains and infrastructure foundations).

Council has obligations under the Roads Act 1993 and Local Government Act 1993 to ensure responsibilities as land owners and managers of assets the safety of its staff, contractors and the public. A capacity for Council to respond to a need to apply a pesticide where required under legislation or to meet other obligations to the public, including financial responsibility, is therefore essential.

### **Objective 2. Guide management decision-making in line with pesticide cessation and minimisation expectations**

This Draft Policy is framed to guide pest management decision-making with respect to pesticide cessation in some areas and minimisation in others; while also enabling a discretionary use by Council in either area if deemed necessary to meet its pest management obligations. This guidance is to be provided through the development of two important tools adopted as part of the final IPM Strategy:

- (i) a digital map that identifies the Pesticide Exclusion Zone in which pesticides are no longer used; as well as identifying Pesticide Minimisation Zone where pesticide use may remain a necessary and justifiable part of an integrated pest management toolkit but is minimised on a continuous improvement basis.
- (ii) a set of protocols to enable Council managers to approve the use of a pesticide in a Pesticide Exclusion zone in an emergency or where this is deemed necessary to meet



its legislative and other obligations but in a manner that results in the lowest adverse outcomes for people and the environment. This will include:

- a. criteria and a decision tree to assist staff decide on whether to use a pesticide and, if so, which pesticide; and,
- b. examples of thresholds and pest action points in which a pesticide may need to be used.

**Objective 3. Enable the provision of pest management training for employees.**

As Council staff play a fundamental role in pest prevention, management, surveillance and reporting, it is essential that training is provided to optimise staff actions and encourage innovation. This may be achieved by building a consistent level of understanding of Integrated Pest Management and providing training in the multidisciplinary approach to:

- pest identification relevant to Byron Shire;
- pest control (including information on selectivity and timing of weed control and surveillance);
- alternatives to pesticide (particularly herbicide) use wherever this is possible and practicable; and,
- more efficient, effective and environmentally sound use of pesticides (particularly herbicides) where they are required.

**4. SCOPE**

The Policy does not seek to recommend when and where an authorised person undertakes integrated pest management activities nor does it define when and where an authorised person uses a pesticide. However, standards of practice for pesticide application on Council owned or managed land must continue to meet or exceed federal and state requirements.

The Policy applies to:

- Integrated pest management on Council owned or managed land.

The Policy does not apply to pesticide use on other public land not owned or managed by Council or private land. However, fostering a coordinated, cooperative approach to pest management is critical as pests occur at the landscape scale and therefore pest management must also occur at that scale.

It is hoped therefore that the Policy may influence and empower other public land managers and/or private landholders to take action on their land to prevent the establishment of pests, to effectively manage their control and to stop the subject pest spreading to other locations.

**5. DEFINITIONS**

<b>Authorised person</b>	A person authorised by Council to undertake explicit pesticide operations. An authorised person must have the appropriate competency for the application to be undertaken. Also see competent person.
<b>Biosecurity</b>	A critical part of Council’s efforts to prevent, respond to and recover from pests that threaten the economy and environment.
<b>Competent person</b>	A person who has acquired through training, qualifications and experience the knowledge and skills to carry out explicit pesticide operations. The following may be considered competent persons for this policy: a pest control operator employed and/or contracted by Council; a



	horticulturist having studied pesticide usage; or a person having undertaken registered training in the management and application of pesticides.
<b>Continuous improvement</b>	A strategy of adaptive management that aspires to improved practices over time to progressively attain highest practicable extent progress towards a specific target
<b>Council infrastructure</b>	Infrastructure (e.g. buildings, water supply, sewer, stormwater, road verges, road reserves, laneways, pathways and easements, drains and drainage systems, cemeteries, landfill, swimming pools, parks and sports fields) necessary to serve urban development at the desired standard of service in a coordinated, efficient and financially sustainable manner owned and/or managed by Council.
<b>Council managed land</b>	Land owned, occupied and/or managed by Byron Shire Council.
<b>Emergency</b>	An urgent need to mitigate or eliminate a pest that threatens public and/or authorised person health and safety, biosecurity and/or Council infrastructure.
<b>Exposure</b>	Occurs when a person, property or the environment comes into contact with a hazard. The four routes of exposure for people are: inhalation, skin absorption, ingestion and inoculation.
<b>Integrated pest management (IPM)</b>	A pest management strategy that carefully considers combinations of methods to attain long-term prevention or suppression of pests with minimum impact on human health, the environment and non-target organisms.
<b>Minimisation</b>	The careful use of the smallest amount of the least hazardous effective pesticide and saving a pesticide application as a last resort wherever possible and appropriate.
<b>Pesticide hazard</b>	The property of an product that causes the product to represent a risk to people or the environment if it is released to an environment where it can be active.
<b>Pest</b>	A species, strain or biotype of a plant or animal, or a disease agent that has the potential to cause, either directly or indirectly, harm to (a) human, animal or plant health or (b) the environment (Biosecurity Act 2015).
<b>Pest action point</b>	The point of which control measures are necessary to prevent a pest population from exceeding the threshold.
<b>Pesticide</b>	An agricultural chemical substance as defined by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994. Definition of pesticides covers, bactericides baits, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, lures, rodenticides and repellents. Pesticides are used in commercial, domestic, urban and rural environments (Pesticides Act 1999). A pesticide may be natural or synthetically produced. For the purposes of this Policy, a pesticide continues to be regarded as a pesticide even when it is mixed with some other substance (whether or not the other substance is a pesticide). Products that are pesticidal in their action but are entirely based on biological agents not harmful to humans are not considered a pesticide for the purposes of this policy.
<b>Pesticide exclusion zone</b>	An area or stretch of land under the jurisdiction of Byron Shire Council having a particular characteristic, purpose, or use, and subject to exclusion of pesticides as covered by the policy unless the identified area or stretch of land exceeds a threshold
<b>Pesticide minimisation zone</b>	An area or stretch of land under the jurisdiction of Byron Shire Council having a particular characteristic, purpose, or use, and subject to minimal pesticide use as covered by the policy unless the identified area or stretch of land exceeds a threshold.
<b>Poison</b>	Medicines and chemicals (including pesticides), whether naturally



	occurring or synthetic, that are listed on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's <i>Poisons Schedule</i> .
<b>Synthetic pesticide</b>	A manmade substance registered with the APVMA that prevents, repels, alters or kills a pest.
<b>Threshold</b>	A level of pest presence above which is unacceptable amounts of danger or injury to the public and/or authorised person health and safety and/or biosecurity and/or asset protection is likely to occur, therefore a pest action level is required.

## 6. STATEMENT

6.1. In recognition of the desirability to effectively and efficiently control pests while reducing risk of potential adverse effects from pesticide use on people and the environment, pesticide use in Byron Shire is:

- I. prohibited in mapped 'pesticide exclusion' zones representing high public use and selected sensitive locations on Council-managed land and,
- II. minimised in all other areas of Council-managed land on a continuous improvement Integrated Pest Management basis to retain operator safety and the quality of ongoing services;

while providing a mechanism for Council staff to use pesticides responsibly, on the basis of an agreed protocol, in any zone where pesticide use is deemed necessary for public and staff safety, biosecurity and protection of infrastructure within a framework of responsible financial management.

The desired long term outcome of the Policy is to attain public spaces in which people and the environment is not exposed to pesticides yet where pests are managed efficiently and effectively.

## 7. LEGISLATIVE AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

### 7.1 Community Strategic Plan 2028

Council is reviewing its current Community Strategic Plan referred to as Our Byron, Our Future. The document outlines the vision, community objectives and supporting strategies which will guide Council's long-term decision making.

In recognition of the draft document the Policy will align with:

- *Community Objective 1 Infrastructure, Transport and Services Which Meet Our Expectations* in that the draft Policy will contribute to providing a road network which is safe, accessible and maintained to an acceptable level of service through a continuous improvement Integrated Pest Management basis
- *Community Objective 3 Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment* in that the draft Policy is framed to guide pest management decision-making with respect to pesticide cessation in some areas and minimisation in others; while also enabling a discretionary use by Council in either area if deemed necessary to meet its pest management obligations.

### 7.2 Pesticides Act 1999

The Pesticides Act (1999) aims to protect and minimise risks to human health, the environment, property and trade in relation to use of pesticides. This includes the use of pesticides for pest management. It is an offence to use a pesticide in a way that causes injury

or likely injury to another person, damage or likely damage to another person's property or harm to a non-target plant or animal.

The Act requires all pesticides and container labels to be registered and approved by National Registration Authority. The Act also requires all persons intending to use or store pesticides, to read and carefully follow all instructions on the product label for the correct use, storage and disposal of the pesticide, and not alter, deface, obliterate or destroy the product label. When using or storing a pesticide, persons shall not willingly or carelessly disregard any instructions or use the pesticide contrary to the product label unless a Permit or Order for off-label use has been issued.

### 7.3 Biosecurity Act 2015

The Biosecurity Act 2015 has repealed the Noxious Weeds Act 1993, which has provided regulatory controls and powers to manage noxious weeds in NSW. The Biosecurity Act 2015 streamlines and modernises the way weeds are managed in NSW as it:

- embeds the principle of shared responsibility for biosecurity risks (including weeds) across government, community and industry
- applies equally to all land in the state, regardless of whether it is publically or privately owned
- is premised on the concept of risk, so that weed management investment and response is appropriate to the risk
- supports regional planning and management for weeds, as recommended by the Review of Weeds Management in NSW.

In keeping with its premise that biosecurity is a shared community responsibility, the Act introduces the legally enforceable concept of a General Biosecurity Duty. For example, for weeds, the General Biosecurity Duty means that any person dealing with plant matter must take measures to prevent eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk (as far as is reasonably practicable).

### 7.4 The Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Council has a duty under the Work Health Safety Act 2011 to provide and maintain a work environment without risk to health and safety, to provide and maintain safe systems of work, to provide and maintain safe plant and structures and to ensure safe use, handling, and storage of plant, structures and substances. In the pursuit of Council's aspirations the health and safety of workers, whether directly employed by Council, contracted or volunteer workers must not be put at risk by the use of chemicals and hazardous substances or by causing workers to be put at risk from other hazards while using alternative means to control pests

## **8 SUSTAINABILITY**

### 7.1. Social

Pest species can affect the health of the community in a range of ways, as can methods of controlling pests. This means that actions to control pest animals (e.g. disease-spreading or biting insects and mammals) or pest plants (e.g. weed growth that causes trip hazards or impinge upon road safety) are carried out where desirable but in a manner that avoids further harm or adverse impacts to people.

Community members across Byron Shire participate in Landcare and Coastcare activities across land tenured including Council managed land and on private property. Whilst Council's obligations under the Biosecurity Act are being met, it is important that

volunteers are supported in their choices of using or not using pesticide in their voluntary work.

Where Council staff, contractors or volunteers use pesticides it is vital that they are sufficiently supported and trained and that all Worker Health and Safety obligations regarding the safe use of pesticides are adhered to by Council and that this is reflected in Council's Worker Health and Safety Policy and Safe Work Method Statements are implemented accordingly.

Any authorised person acting on behalf of Council needs to consider the health and safety of operators and the public while performing any acts that could foreseeably harm others.

## 6.2. Environmental

A primary consideration for environmental sustainability is the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of Byron Shire's highly valued biodiversity consistent with Byron Shire's Biodiversity Strategy. This includes conserving and protecting native vegetation (whether remnant or regrowth) and native fauna of the Shire in a manner that prioritises the control of pests that outcompete or otherwise negatively affect native species. Actions relevant to this Policy include the timely, efficient and effective management of biosecurity risks including pest plants and animals, particularly with respect to Threatened species or Endangered Ecological Communities listed under State or Federal legislation.

Other highly important primary considerations are the protection of soil, water and air quality, through the avoidance of contamination by pesticides and consideration of carbon emissions in the treatment of pests.

## 6.3. Economic

Pesticide policy is relevant to economic sustainability in a number of ways:

The efficient and effective control of pests needs to be attained in a safe manner not only because of the need to protect people and the environment per se but also because it is necessary to protect Byron Shire's clean and green image. Visitors to Byron Shire need to feel comfortable that they will not be exposed to pesticide contamination and that they can choose to participate in clean and green lifestyles.

Pest management actions must consider the responsible use of limited funds. While cost should not be used as justification for pesticide minimisation, there will be limits to the cost effectiveness of alternative methods of managing pests, particularly at larger scales.

The consideration of whether or not to use a pesticide also depends upon the efficacy of the methods for protecting valuable infrastructure. This includes not only built infrastructure such as roads, drains and buildings but also green infrastructure such as trees and other landscape features.

## 6.4. Governance

The Policy must comply with all relevant legislation and Council's policies. Implementation of a workable framework, consistent with the intent of Council Resolution 13-621, for the management of pests will require the development of staff procedures for appropriate decision-making with respect to identifying Thresholds and Action Levels for



pesticide use in either Pesticide Exclusion Zones or Pesticide Minimisation Zones with consideration of public views and perspectives.

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