

Cannabis identification for NSW Police

1 October 2017

The Department of Primary Industries is regularly asked to formally identify cannabis plants for the NSW Police.

A procedure is in place to make sure identification requests are responded to appropriately and safely.

Who identifies cannabis plants?

Under the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985* (the Act), NSW Police can request formal identification of cannabis plants by appointed NSW Department of Primary Industries Compliance staff (NSW DPI).

DPI Compliance officers must act in accordance with the Act, policies and internal staff operations manuals.

REQUESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION

1. Attend search warrants – all NSW

When conducting a search warrant, NSW Police must request for an appointed person to conduct formal identification by writing to **cannabis.id@dpi.nsw.gov.au** with a minimum of three (3) days notice. This request must include:

- Address where the identification will be conducted.
- Estimated time the appointed person is required to attend.
- Contact details for the Officer in Charge of the search warrant.

Failure to complete this notification without the required notice may result in the identification request not being able to be fulfilled by NSW DPI due to staff already being deployed elsewhere.

2. Attend unplanned warrant/search – all NSW

When the execution of a search warrant is unforeseen, an urgent request can be made by calling (02) 9741 4790 on NSW business days between 9am to 5pm. This request must include:

- Address where the identification will be conducted.
- Estimated time the appointed person is required to attend.
- Contact details for the Officer in Charge of the site.

While DPI officers will respond immediately if possible, the attendance of a DPI officer to conduct identification at short notice cannot be guaranteed.

3. Identification in evidence bags – Sydney metro

NSW Police are required to transport any plants that have been secured in evidence bags to the dedicated facility at Sydney Markets for identification by DPI staff.

NSW Police must call the DPI Duty Officer at Sydney Markets on 0411 139 678 to book an appropriate time.

DPI Compliance Sydney metro staff are unable to attend a police station to identify cannabis plants.

More information

Call (02) 9741 4790

Email cannabis.id@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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