

7 February 2018

For immediate release

Fogging scheduled to combat mosquito increase

The Shire of Broome is set to undertake fogging to help reduce mosquito numbers as recent record rainfall and big tides provide ideal breeding conditions around the town site.

Shire of Broome Environmental Health Officers have been monitoring mosquito numbers and they are now at a level where fogging is considered appropriate as part of a wider management strategy.

Fogging is scheduled for Friday 9 February, weather permitting, with the fogging machine to be towed along selected streets running in a north-south direction to maximise coverage and effectiveness in killing adult mosquitoes.

The chemical used is approved by the WA Health Department but can potentially cause some irritation so people are advised to remain inside if fogging is occurring nearby, and anyone with concerns can contact Environmental Health Services on (08) 9191 3456.

Shire of Broome Manager Health, Emergency and Rangers, Ty Matson, said fogging was only one tool in managing mosquitoes and the community needed to be actively involved.

“Environmental Health Officers have been working to minimise mosquitoes, including monitoring areas of standing water to find out where they are breeding, and then applying larvicide to prevent them growing to adulthood,” he said.

“Trapping adult mosquitoes allows us to monitor the identity and density of the population, and the Shire also maintains a sentinel chicken program with the WA Department of Health to detect mosquito-borne viruses.

“But we also need the community to take measures to prevent mosquitoes breeding around their homes, and to prevent themselves being bitten.”

Measures to protect the community by stopping mosquitoes from breeding include:

- Emptying any standing water from containers, old tyres and drums;
- Keeping ornamental ponds stocked with mosquito-eating fish;
- Keeping swimming pools well chlorinated and filtered, as well as free from leaves;
- Filling or draining depressions in the ground that hold water;
- Screening rainwater tanks with insect-proof mesh;
- Ensuring guttering does not hold water;
- Emptying pot plant drip trays once a week or filling with sand.

Basic precautions to prevent being bitten by mosquitoes include:

- Reducing outdoor activities during high mosquito activity periods (dawn and dusk);
- Covering up by wearing loose-fitting, light-coloured, long-sleeved shirts and long pants;
- Applying personal insect repellent containing DEET or Picaridin if possible;
- Ensuring fly screen doors and windows are fitted and maintained.

More information is available online at www.broome.wa.gov.au or by contacting Shire of Broome Environmental Health Services on (08) 9191 3456 or shire@broome.wa.gov.au.

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