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MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Further fogging as Shire manages mosquitoes

The Shire of Broome is set to undertake further mosquito fogging from this week to reduce mosquito numbers as above-average rainfall continues.

The aim of fogging is to kill adult flying mosquitoes and is used as part of a holistic approach to provide temporary relief when mosquito numbers are high, with factors taken into consideration including the impact on the environment, prevalence of disease and weather conditions.

Shire of Broome Director Development Services, Aletta Nugent, said fogging was scheduled initially for Thursday 2 March between 6am and 7am around Lullfitz Dve, Buckleys Rd and the speedway.

“The Shire’s Mosquito Management Strategy provides an integrated approach to managing and minimising mosquito numbers and includes trapping and identifying adult mosquitoes, larval surveillance, a sentinel chicken program, larviciding and adulticiding which were applied throughout the year,” Ms Nugent said.

“The Shire will consider all options to best manage the breeding cycles, with fogging again being considered in coming weeks should conditions be favourable.

“Anyone who would prefer not to have their property fogged or would like more information can contact the Shire of Broome Environmental Health Services on (08) 9191 3456 or shire@broome.wa.gov.au, or visit the website at www.broome.wa.gov.au.”

The chemical used in fogging can potentially cause some irritation so people are advised to remain inside if fogging is occurring nearby.

“It’s also imperative the community take responsibility for potential breeding sites in backyards by emptying buckets, pot plant holders and old tyres of pooling water and taking measures to protect themselves from bites by wearing long-sleeved, light clothing and applying repellent when going outdoors,” Ms Nugent said.

Current surveillance show the *Aedes vigilax* mosquito as most prevalent. It has the ability to transmit Murray Valley Encephalitis, Barmah Forest Virus and Ross River Virus, and breeds in coastal saltmarshes and brackish swamp areas such as the mangroves throughout Broome. The female will bite throughout the day, particularly at dusk, and is known to be hardy and persistent. This breed will continue to bite during hot, dry and windy conditions and the Broome climate provides ideal breeding conditions with a full cycle from egg to flying in 4-10 days.

Residual pyrethroid sprays such bifenthrin, deltamethrin, outdoor foggers or permethrin can be used further to reduce nuisance mosquitoes in residential backyards, however it should not replace the removal and prevention of backyard breeding conditions.

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