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New Western Suburbs group ready to beat mosquitoes

While mozzies are less of a problem when the weather is cool, winter is a good time to find mosquito breeding places around your house.

The City of Nedlands was a key driver in 2020 for the formation of the Western Suburbs Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC) Contiguous Local Authorities Group (CLAG) in time for the 2020-2021 summer mosquito season. The WESROC CLAG comprises the Cities of Nedlands and Subiaco and Towns of Claremont, Cottesloe and Mosman Park in a voluntary partnership in the management of mosquitos across the region. The CLAG funding scheme is supported by the Department of Health, providing financial support for local government mosquito management programs and is an excellent opportunity for neighbouring local governments to work together to tackle cross boundary mosquito management, and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

Acting CEO, Ed Herne said the summer of 2021 had been a particularly challenging time for residents dealing with mosquitoes.

“The City received multiple complaints relating to mosquitoes along the Nedlands foreshore and the Dalkeith area and it was soon discovered the primary source was Pelican Point,” Mr Herne said.

“We raised the issue with the City of Perth, who is responsible for managing Pelican Point, and the problem was tackled swiftly on several fronts.”

Combined efforts by the City of Perth and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions saw immediate action taken to kill the larvae at its source while Environmental Health Officers from the City of Nedlands monitored known sites within the district and provided public information for residents to take appropriate action to protect themselves from being bitten during the three-week life cycle of adult mosquitoes.

At that time, the City’s trapping programs towards the centre of Dalkeith were resulting in more than 100 saltmarsh mosquito species - *Aedes vigilax* - per trap where routine monitoring in previous years would typically see numbers for this species at zero! This particular species is known to be a vicious mosquito biting throughout the day, which can be a significant nuisance to residents and is a potential carrier of Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus.

“To ensure the public health of the community is protected, the City of Nedlands and neighbouring councils continue to implement monitoring and control measures in accordance with their relevant mosquito management plans,” Mr Herne said.

The City has a coordinated mosquito program in place but is calling on residents to help identify and eliminate areas around their homes where water can retain and be a potential site for mosquito breeding.

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About the City of Nedlands

The City of Nedlands is situated 7km from the Perth CBD and stretches from the banks of the Swan River to the white sands of the Indian Ocean. Covering the suburbs of Nedlands, Dalkeith, Mt Claremont, Swanbourne, Karrakatta and parts of Floreat and Shenton Park, the City of Nedlands is home to a population of approximately 22,000 residents.