

17 January 2020

## **Beat the bite – keeping mosquitoes at bay**

The weather forecast for the metropolitan area is rain today and sunny days over the weekend - ideal conditions for mosquito breeding.

With a life-cycle of just seven days from egg to flying adult, mosquitoes need only a small amount of water to breed, so it's important to reduce likely breeding places in or near your home.

Aside from interfering with outdoor activities, mosquitoes can also spread diseases such as Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus. These illnesses can be debilitating causing fever, headaches, chronic fatigue and rashes as well as joint, muscle and tendon pain.

City of Nedlands Environmental Health experts recommend residents check their homes and gardens for any likely mosquito breeding spots, particularly following a shower a rain.

Tips to avoid mosquito bites this season:

- Remove 'sitting water' in places such as gutters, pipes, drains or long grass,
- Replace pets' drinking water daily,
- Keep swimming pools, fishponds and fountains clean and filtrated,
- When outdoors, wear long sleeved, loose-fitting clothes,
- Use insect repellent such as DEET or picaridin, and
- Ensure insect screens are secure and use mosquito nets when necessary.

Throughout the season, the City collaborates with other councils to carry out routine monitoring, surveillance and mosquito eradication programs across the district. This involves trapping mosquitoes and identifying species. Based on this information, action is taken to eliminate particular species and their breeding areas including identifying any stormwater drains or sumps that may hold water liable to mosquito breeding. Reviewing the area to identify any potential residential sources is also carried out, including the investigation of complaints from residents about stagnant swimming pools or other residential sources.

**ENDS**

### **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 21,000 residents.

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*For further information please contact 9273 3500*