

SHIRE OF CAPEL MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM



How we propose to treat mosquitoes

After extensive research and mapping of the major mosquito breeding habitats in the Shire The most environmentally sound and effective mosquito control identified is to control mosquitoes in the larval stage, before they become biting adults.

Before starting the program the Shire of Capel had to get permission from the Commonwealth Government to carry a larviciding program in the Forrest Beach, the headwaters of the Vasse-Wonnerup estuary, a Ramsar listed wetlands (for more information on the Ramsar wetlands please go to www.ramsar.org)

The aim of the program is to minimise the incidence of Ross River Virus and Barmah Forest Virus amongst residents and visitors to the Shire of Capel.

How will this happen?

The larviciding of the wetlands will be carried out by aerial application (via a helicopter), and will be localised to the fringes of wetlands in known mosquitoes breeding areas.

At the time of applying the larvicide the helicopter will fly 10m to 15m above the wetlands.



The 3 stages to the larviciding program

The larviciding program is divided into 3 stages:

1. Pre-treatment survey
2. Aerial larviciding application
3. Post treatment survey

Pre-treatment Survey

Environmental Health Officers regularly investigate wetland areas to determine the mosquito breeding sites. The survey involves taking a water sample to gather information on the number of mosquito larvae. This determines if there is a need for the application of larvicide to minimise larval mosquito numbers.



Aerial Larviciding Application

The larvicide will be applied by helicopter to the fringes of the wetlands to minimise the number of mosquito larvae.

The application of larvicide to wetland breeding areas via helicopter will minimise the number of mosquitoes while in their larval stage before they become biting adults.

Post Treatment Survey

Shire's Environmental Health Officers will carry out intensive surveying of the wetlands after an aerial larviciding operation to determine the effectiveness of the treatment.

It is estimated that for every 1 hour spent with an aerial treatment, 4 hours are spent in the field surveying sites and gathering data.

When will larviciding occur?

The peak mosquito breeding times are August through to December. The action of larviciding will occur 2 to 4 times a year when late rainfall followed by warmer weather in October, November and December is experienced in the region.

What is in the product we will be using?

A product called PROLINK will be used to treat the wetlands.

The active ingredient in PROLINK is (S) - methoprene.

(S) - methoprene insect growth regulator (IGR) is a biodegradable compound of very low environmental persistence. The (S) - methoprene molecule contains only carbon, hydrogen and oxygen.

(S) - methoprene targets mosquito larvae and does not harm animals or people. In fact, (S) - methoprene has been recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the use in drinking water supplies.

This substance has been used for over 20 years throughout the world, including 10 years in the Peel region and has been selected for its safety and effectiveness.

Please contact the Shire's Environmental Health Service on 97270 207 for further information on the larviciding program, or the Material Safety Data Sheet for PROLINK.