

### **Surveillance for Mosquito Breeding**

As the weather warms, mosquito breeding begins in creeks and dams and low-lying areas filled with brackish water and in household guttering, water tanks and pot plants.

In the colder months (autumn, winter and early spring), it may take 6 months for mosquito larvae to grow to become an adult. In hot weather, that breeding cycle may only take a few days.

Presently the temperature of the water in creeks in the Shire is too cold for mosquito breeding, but with warmer weather coming, the likelihood of more frequent breeding will require larvicide briquettes to be laid and low-lying water treated with a sand-like-material larvicide for wider creeks and dams.

Mosquito common to the Gnowangerup Shire are:



#### **The Southern Saltmarsh Mosquito – *Aedes Camptorhynchus***

This mosquito is prevalent in winter and spring and able to breed in fresh water, coastal inland brackish water, tidal salt marshes, bushland and creek lines.

A Human Disease Carrier of Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus.



#### **Domestic Container Mosquito – *Aedes Notoscriptus***

This mosquito prefers fresh water and breeds in pools of water left by the rain, tyres and receptacles around the home.

A Human Disease Carrier of Ross River Virus.



#### **Common Banded Mosquito – *Culex Annulirostris***

This mosquito prefers to breed in warm fresh water, mildly brackish water, man-made lakes and containers over much of the year, particularly after heavy summer rain. A Human Disease Carrier of Ross River Virus, Barmah Forest Virus, Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus and West Nile virus Kunjin strain (WNV<sub>KUN</sub>).

## What can you do to avoid being bitten?

You can also assist in minimizing mosquito breeding by emptying any receptacle around your home that allows water to lie, e.g., empty water from the saucers under pot plants and fill the saucers with sand to prevent breeding. Mossies only need a week to breed in hot weather and create a nuisance.

As there is no immunization for mosquito borne diseases, prevention is the only method of protection. Cover up at dawn & dusk when mossies are more common and wear insect repellent.

## What is Council doing to prevent mosquito breeding?

Your Council Environmental Health Officer has been inspecting creeks, dams and water filled low lying areas in the three townsites in the Shire – Gnowangerup, Ongerup & Borden. We use our mosquito management plan as a guide to inspect common breeding areas.

Council workers will larvicide bait in briquette form and granules in creeks and wetlands and other low-lying areas. Please do not disturb a larvicide bait if you find one of these. The briquettes lay under the water level and gradually dissolve over six months.



Council officers will inspect wet areas weekly throughout summer.

We are also looking at known breeding areas to investigate if there are other options to remove habitat for breeding or permanently removing areas filled with low lying water.

We are currently purchasing two light traps to capture flying mosquitoes for identification by microscope. Our colleagues in the Health Department have taken our captured mossies and identified them for us.

Council is also working with the Shires of Broomhill-Tambellup and Katanning and the Department of Health (Western Australia) in a collaborative manner known simply as a CLAG, or in full as a Collaborative Local Authority Group. The Health Department contributes financially to help Councils purchase larvicide and traps and microscopes and provides an intensive weekly training course every 2 years.

### Contact Council with information

If you are being bothered by mosquitoes, you may contact Council at [gnpshire@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au](mailto:gnpshire@gnowangerup.wa.gov.au) and leave your contact details and where & when you were bitten. We may be able to assist you with information and treatment options.