

## Mosquito Control – Information Sheet

### Why mosquito management is important

Mosquitoes can pose a nuisance and serious health risk to the community by transmitting harmful viruses. In the South West of WA both Ross River and Barmah Forest Virus is active in the mosquito population at certain times.

### Mosquito control program

The City of Busselton has a comprehensive mosquito management program involving monitoring, treatment and communication activities. Key mosquito breeding sites are regularly checked for larvae and adult traps set to count the number of adult mosquitoes and the species present. When significant larvae are detected a non-toxic larvicide is applied by helicopter directly into the identified wetlands that specifically targets mosquito larvae. Smaller stagnant waters are treated via hand as identified.

### Protect yourself

Mosquitoes are a fact of life in the South West, protect yourself from being bitten:

- Wear long loose fitting clothing when in mosquito prone areas
- Apply an insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus to all exposed skin (refer to further information)
- Avoid mosquito prone areas at dusk and dawn

### Repel mosquitoes around your home

Mosquitoes may be present around your home. Here are some ways to reduce the number of mosquitoes around your property and in your home:

- Install fly screens in outdoor sitting areas and house doors/windows
- Use a fan to create a change in air pressure that repels mosquitoes
- Turn off lights, change to yellow or low fluorescence globes
- Reduce garden foliage
- Use mosquito coils, lamps or bug zappers
- Remove standing water e.g. clean gutters and empty water holding containers regularly
- Fit mosquito proof cowls on the vent pipes of septic systems
- Screen rainwater tanks
- Apply a residual insecticide containing the active ingredient bifenthrin to outdoor hard surfaces i.e. patios, eaves, walls and window sills. Note these products are a general insecticide and not targeted for mosquitoes only. Ensure you read the product storage and handling instructions carefully and use the correct equipment specified when applying any products

### Further information

- City's Mosquito Management Program - <https://www.busselton.wa.gov.au/live/public-health-and-safety/mosquito-control.aspx>
- South West Local Governments Fight The Bite - <https://www.fightthebite.com.au/>
- Department of Health WA - <https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Healthy-living/Prevent-mosquito-bites>
- Effective Insect repellents - [https://www2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N\\_R/Personal-insect-repellents](https://www2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/N_R/Personal-insect-repellents)