

Information to Councils in South Western and Western NSW on Mosquito Control during Public Events

1. Mosquitoes can transmit infections such as Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses.
2. Stagnant water left behind by the recent floods and heavy rain provides ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
3. Personal protection measures reduce people's risk of diseases and ease the nuisance factor.
4. For public events, Local Councils can reduce the risk of mosquito bites by removing stagnant water and containers of water from around the venue, making mosquito repellents available to patrons, and where appropriate, larviciding or fogging before the event.

Background

- There has been a marked increase in the number of mosquitoes being trapped and in the detection of Ross River and Barmah Forest virus in some areas of South Western and Western NSW.
- With the increased mosquito numbers, there is potential for increased risk of mosquito borne disease in people.

Prevention

The following measures should be considered by the local councils when preparing for public events:

- Provide posters and information to the people on how to avoid mosquito bites.
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/pests/vector/Documents/fight-the-bite.pdf>
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Factsheets/mosquitoes-health-hazard.pdf>
- In advance of the event, provide participants with a checklist of items they can bring to prevent mosquito bites. These include: mosquito repellents (containing Diethyl Toluamide (DEET) or Picaridin), loose fitting clothing (long sleeved shirts and pants), covered footwear, prams covered with mosquito netting, tents that have working flyscreen or mosquito nets, and knockdown household insect sprays.
- Ensure access to mosquito repellent for personal use at the event.

Control

Local Councils may need to seek a license to spray approved APVMA insecticides from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO Act)*. There are other obligations that councils need to abide to when spraying outdoor public places. For further information, please contact NSW EPA on the environment line 131 555 or <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/contact/>.

Some measures to consider are:

- The most effective means to reduce mosquito numbers around a site is the application of control products targeting the larval stages (such as the biolarvicide *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) or the insect growth regulator, s-methoprene). These agents should be applied 2-3 weeks prior to the event to achieve effective mosquito control.
- For short term control of adult mosquitoes, fogging or spraying adulticides (with pyrethroids) the morning or night before major events or mass gatherings, can be undertaken.
- Spraying of residual insecticides such as bifenthrin or deltamethrin in outdoor areas where adult mosquitoes rest can assist in reducing local mosquito abundance.

Further Information

If you require further advice on mosquito control, please contact your Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or the Department of Medical Entomology at Westmead on 02 9845 7548

Technical advice can also be sought from the companies that supply mosquito control chemicals.