



## Mosquito video transcript

Hi, I'm Stuart, I'm one of the City of Cockburn's Environmental Health Officers and I'm here today to talk to you about a pest that we all know; mosquitoes.

Cockburn is home to many beautiful lakes and wetlands with many different types of mosquitoes, but only a few of these are the nasty kind that aggressively bite. Some of those species include *aedes notoscriptus*, *aedes vigilax* and some *culex* species.

They can carry a range of diseases but the most common of these are Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus. The peak season for mozzies here has been September and January, after the rainy months when there is plenty of stagnant water for them to lay their larvae.

The Environmental Health Team here at the City of Cockburn runs an integrated mosquito management program. This involves a range of activities to monitor and control the mozzie population. We regularly set traps in strategic locations during the peak mosquito months.

So this is one of the mosquito traps that we have throughout the council at Cockburn and it's purely for monitoring for Ross River virus and for the species of mosquito and the types of mosquitoes as well, so let's have a look, quite a busy trap today.

This allows us to keep track of the types and numbers of mosquitoes in the area and answer any questions residents might have about mosquitoes in their suburb. We also treat locations where mosquitoes are likely to be and mosquito larvae are going to breed.

We use target-specific, non-poisonous growth regulators that stop the larvae turning into mosquitoes and liquid product.

The City also works with the City of Kwinana and the Department of Health's Medical Entomology Unit in a joint effort to fund the costs associated with the running of this program as well as having regular meetings to ensure the best outcomes are being met.

Your best bet for protecting yourself and your family against mosquito-borne diseases, is by preventing bites in the first place. There are a number of simple things you can do at home.

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Cover up by wearing long loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing to cover exposed skin, many mosquitoes are at their biting best are in dusk and dawn.

In order to repel mosquitoes, it's important to use a product that's got Deet in it. Make sure you put it on all areas of exposed skin.

To stop mosquitoes breeding around your home by removing emptying or covering water holding containers, this is a classic example of where larva can breed if you do have containers make sure you actually empty them.

It's also important to make sure all windows and doors are screened and there are no tears in them.

If you have any concerns or questions about mosquito in Cockburn we are always happy to have a chat. You can call the City's Environmental Health Team so help us out, do your part, and fight the bite.

END