

FRIENDS OF MAYLANDS LAKES

MIDGE UPDATE

26 JANUARY 2020

The latest advice from the City of Bayswater is that:

Overview

- Maylands Lakes (Bungana, Brearley and Brickworks Lakes) were constructed by a private developer in the 1990's at a time when Maylands was governed by the City of Stirling.
- The water body is a constructed lake with a 'pit and pipe' stormwater system. This approach to development is now believed to lead to poor water quality outcomes when managing stormwater systems and wetlands.
- The construction of the stormwater system has contributed to a decline in water quality and led to algal blooms. The City has received complaints from residents about the nuisance caused by an increase in midge numbers over the summer months.
- This is a state wide issue, with a recent study from the Department of Water citing 80% of developments of this kind reporting issues, most relating to poor water quality and algae blooms as a result of high nutrient levels.

Dealing with the increase in midge now

- The City acknowledges the nuisance midges are causing residents living near the Maylands Lakes and is providing free residual insecticide for all affected residents. This insecticide works like a surface spray, repelling midges for longer periods of time than a general spray.
- City officers will deliver the insecticide and provide support to ensure residents have everything they need to treat their homes and outside areas. To receive the residual insecticide residents can call the City's Environmental Health team on 9272 0648 and provide their delivery address.
- It is important to note that the insecticide provided to residents is different to that applied to the lakes and surrounding areas.
- The City will continue to treat areas where midge breed and harbour.

What is the City doing to address the problem in the longer term?

- Unfortunately there is no quick fix, or one solution to address the poor water quality and subsequent algae blooms and increase in midges at Maylands Lakes.
- Addressing this longstanding issue requires a combination of measures and constant monitoring to assess their effectiveness.
- In 2016, the City engaged an independent environmental engineering company to prepare a report into water quality at Maylands Lakes and identify potential options to address the problem. Actions included the application of Phoslock (a clay that binds phosphorus), the dredging of Lake Bungana and Brearley and the installation of gross pollutant traps (to prevent sediment running from local streets into the lakes). Actions were costed at \$3 million.
- To-date Phoslock has been applied to Lake Bungana and Brearley, revegetation program has commenced, gross pollutant traps have been installed and the dredging of Lake Bungana is now complete.
- A further application of Phoslock is scheduled for Lake Bungana and Brearley within the next month.
- The City is continuing to work closely with the Friends of Maylands Lakes to implement the initiatives agreed upon and budgeted for the remediation.
- While initial observations indicate the dredging of Lake Bungana has improved water quality, the City has engaged specialist engineering company, GHD, to investigate the effectiveness of the actions taken to date. A report will be available later this year.
- The City will await the assessment report to determine the most effective measures to improve water quality in the lakes, this may include dredging Lake Brearley.
- The City has sought funding to address water quality issues at Maylands Lakes from both State and Federal governments as part of its Advocacy Program.
- The City has arranged to meet with representatives from the Department of Health to explore further options to address this issue.

For further information and updates visit Bayswater.wa.gov.au