

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mozzie measures protect public health

The budget is abuzz with initiatives to stamp out the mozzie menace.

Council will take to the ground and the skies as part of a big program to promote and protect community health.

Funding of \$122,000 has been set aside for ground treatments and up to 10 aerial assaults on saltmarsh mosquito breeding sites, as well as a further \$104,000 to fight dengue.

An additional \$31,000 will be spent on investigating and mapping mosquito breeding sites in the northern beaches.

Community Safety and Health Committee chairman Cr Dale Last said the council's strong vector control program was important to fight mozzies.

"The outbreak of dengue fever in Townsville is a strong reminder that we can't become complacent about the dangers presented by mosquitoes," Cr Last said.

"This year's Budget provides for saltmarsh mosquito spraying to cover all major tidal periods, as well as allowing council staff to get out into the suburbs to advise on eradication strategies for the dengue mosquito."

Inspection and regulation of food premises to safeguard public health is also a priority with \$620,000 in funding.

The council's regulatory service section will also use new surveillance cameras to combat illegal dumping. The cameras were bought with a State grant and can be hidden in different locations to assist with identifying illegal dumpers.

Animal management and pest control are also a major Budget priorities and include:

- \$217,000 to fund the RSPCA pound operations
- \$20,000 to prepare for implementation of new legislation to control dogs and cats due at the end of next year
- \$61,000 Cat Pilot Project which will begin soon on Magnetic Island

Media information: Cr Dale Last 0400 046 400