

**Question on Notice
No. 910
Asked on 7 June 2007**

QUESTION:

MR ELMES asked the Minister for Environment and Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

Will she advise when the government will start to reimburse local councils, including those on the Sunshine Coast, for the cost of undertaking mosquito eradication programs on state land, including national parks?

ANSWER:

In accordance with its legislative responsibilities, policies and procedures, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not contribute funds to any mosquito control activity or program.

Provisions of the *Health Regulation 1996* require local governments to undertake mosquito control programs on lands, including State lands, to prevent mosquito breeding and provides the necessary statutory support to do so.

The EPA permits such control activity on the land it manages under strict guidelines.

Direct control may be approved where a health authority considers an emergency situation or serious health risk exists. It may also be approved when a government department or local government authority proposes control activities where the primary aim is to reduce the incidence of vector borne disease. The activity to be undertaken must conform with the *Mosquito Management Code of Practice for Queensland – 2002*.

Furthermore, where a state of disaster has been declared under the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and the District Disaster Co-ordinator determines that mosquito control action is necessary to ensure public safety or prevent or minimise loss of human life, such action may be undertaken without pre-approval from the EPA.