

When will the Carp Removal Program take place at Council Wetlands?

The Carp Removal Program is scheduled to take place from Monday 1st April to Friday 12th April 2019. However, the timing of this program is subject to change in the case of unforeseen weather events (eg, heavy rain).

Will the wetland be closed to the public?

Only the wetland water body will be closed to the public during the project.

Why do safety precautions need to be in place?

Public safety is paramount and all steps have been taken to ensure there is no risk to the public. Appropriate signage will be installed, and the chemicals will be applied by trained Council personnel.

Why is it important to remove carp from the wetland?

The population of carp has increased significantly. Carp feeding behaviours increase the turbidity levels in the water making it difficult for Council to clean stormwater through the wetland's natural biological and chemical processes.

How did the carp get there?

The carp have most likely been released into Council's wetlands and North Lakes Golf Course water bodies.

What will happen to the carp?

All euthanised carp will be removed promptly from the wetland water bodies on a daily basis, and buried at an approved Council site according to permit conditions.

What technique will be used to remove carp from the wetland?

The process will use a natural pesticide, rotenone, an odourless chemical compound which occurs naturally in the seeds and stems of several plant species.

Is the chemical toxic and will it be harmful for my pet?

Rotenone is a commonly-used natural chemical pesticide. The chemical is only toxic in high dosages. It is not harmful to your pet.

Has this chemical been trialled and tested?

The chemical has been used in other freshwater systems for carp management in America and Australia. Council has previously worked with SARDI Aquatic Sciences using rotenone for carp eradication across its Smith Creek Wetlands.

The whole procedure is being conducted by trained personnel and under a licenced permit issued to Council by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

What will the chemical do to the water?

Rotenone is a white, odourless crystalline substance extracted from the seeds and stems of several plant species and used as a pesticide. In addition to acting as a pesticide, the rotenone removes solids from the water, leading to cleaner and clearer water in our wetlands.

What other methods of removal have been used by Council?

The City of Playford has attempted to remove carp using netting techniques, but large numbers of the pests still remain. Council has also trailed fishing days to remove carp. Draining is not considered an option, due to concerns with the clay liner integrity and survival of aquatic flora and fauna.

Will this affect the environment and wildlife surrounding the wetland?

There will be no impact to environment and wildlife surrounding the wetlands.

Will there be a long-term effect on the wetland system?

There will be no detrimental impacts to the wetland, however the benefits of removing carp via the application of rotenone will provide long-term advantages to the wetland biological ecosystem.

Will there be an odour or visible signs of the rotenone?

There will be no odour, but possibly some water discolouration during the application of rotenone. However, the wetlands will appear cleaner a few days after completion of the program.

Will this affect my drinking water?

No, water from Council wetlands is not used for human or stock consumption, eg, drinking.

Will this affect irrigation sites?

The Carp Removal Program will not affect any irrigation sites. Water from the wetland is initially injected into the underlying aquifer system and left for a period of time before extracted and sold to customers for irrigation.

Once the chemical has been used, how long before it is safe to enter the wetlands?

To ensure the rotenone is no longer active after treatment within Council wetlands, water samples will be taken and analysed by a National Association of Testing Authorities-accredited laboratory, Australian Laboratory Services. The public will only be allowed around the wetland water bodies once the rotenone is tested and proven to be inactive.

Will this program have to be undertaken again in the future?

Council will use this program again when required for the future management of carp within its wetlands. Council also plan to educate the wider community on the impacts that carp cause to wetlands which are used for stormwater harvesting.

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