

Joint Incident Management Team - Community Information

Warrnambool Incident Control Centre Nurdle Response Update

Monday 4 December 2017 – Edition 4 - Time Issued: 10:30am

WHAT IS A NURDLE

Nurdles are small plastic pellets about 3 millimetres in diameter used in the manufacturing of plastic products.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY

Today, the IMT will be concentrating on the beaches with the highest density of nurdles. These include:

- East Beach, Port Fairy (Connolly St heading east)
- Shelly Beach, Warrnambool (Second Bay end)
- Logan Beach, Warrnambool (left of the stairs)

Wannon Water staff will be leading crews to collect nurdles at these locations today from **1:00pm-3:00pm**.

If community members wish to assist, they are welcome to come along. To maximise their efforts we recommend they do so at the beaches listed above, as this is where the highest concentrations of nurdles are.

Special thanks go to those community members and Warrnambool surf life club members who have volunteered their time and given many hours to assist in collecting nurdles so far. Thanks also to those volunteers coordinated by Sea Shepherd Australia at Shelly Beach yesterday.

The IMT estimates that the beach clean-up efforts so far have yielded 40 litres of nurdles (over one million nurdles). Wannon Water has also removed over 750 litres of nurdles from the Warrnambool sewage treatment plant, preventing these from entering the environment.

This morning a deceased dolphin was found on the beach near the Surf Life Saving Club in Port Fairy. This is not an unusual occurrence for this area of coast, especially given the recent stormy weather and ocean currents. The IMT is confident this is unrelated to nurdles. However, we will undertake a necropsy in line with standard wildlife protocols just to be sure.

If you see any wildlife species feeding on or around nurdles, these should be documented (photos/video preferred) and DELWP notified by calling 136 186.



The IMT has developed information materials, including a Nurdle Collection Information sheet. (Refer to www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles)

KEY SAFETY ADVICE

We ask all community members to take necessary steps to work safely on beaches as there many potential hazards to consider, such as weather (storms to sunburn), wildlife (snakes, spiders), sharps (sticks, glass, etc.), dehydration and tidal considerations, so take care, plan your activity and be aware of your surroundings.

Working in stormy weather is dangerous and we advise community groups not to venture to district beaches during severe weather.

Weather Forecast: Monday 4th December
Partly cloudy, medium chance of showers, in the morning and early afternoon. Winds southerly 15 to 20 km/h becoming light early in the morning then becoming south to south-easterly 15 to 20 km/h in the morning.





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NURDLE DROP-OFF POINTS

Wannon Water, 25 Gateway Road (Mon-Fri)
Pavilion Café, Warrnambool
Hopkins Point Milk Bar
Shelly Beach
Killarney Beach
Levy's Point car park
Killarney Point car park

STAY INFORMED

For more information refer to the websites and
Facebook pages below.

Community Group Facebook
"Good will nurdle hunting"

Wannon Water
www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles

Warrnambool City Council
www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

Moyne Shire Council
www.moyne.vic.gov.au

NEXT UPDATE

Tuesday 5th December