

Joint Incident Management Team - Community Information

Warrnambool Incident Control Centre Nurdle Response Update

Tuesday 5 December 2017 – Edition 5 - Time Issued: 10:30am

WHAT IS A NURDLE

Nurdles are pre-production plastic beads (they look like small hailstones) used in the manufacturing of everyday plastic goods and products.

They are small, lightweight and easy to transport in bulk. They pour readily and melt quickly and evenly during production.

WHAT IS HAPPENING TODAY

Today, the IMT will again be targeting district 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**. A mechanical beach cleaner will also be in operation at Port Fairy's East Beach today.

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.

The IMT is looking to coordinated community clean-up effort on the weekend. We'll provide further details about this as plans come together later this week.

The IMT estimates that the beach clean-up efforts so far have yielded 40.5 litres of nurdles (over one million nurdles). Wannon Water has also removed more than 750 litres of nurdles from the Warrnambool sewage treatment plant, preventing these from entering the environment.

Nurdles being collected are being passed on to Deakin University who will research their chemical signature as part of a worldwide research program.

People collecting nurdles from beaches can place them into bins provided at beaches or in Wannon Water's Gateway Road office foyer. Plastic bags and markers are provided at the drop-off points. Please place your nurdles into these, label the bags with the date, time and location where they were found, and place them into the bin.

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 are 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: Tuesday 5th December

Partly cloudy. Slight (20%) chance of a shower. Light winds becoming southerly 20 to 25 km/h in the middle of the day then becoming light in the evening.



NEXT UPDATE

Wednesday 6th December

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