

## Joint Incident Management Team - Community Information

### Warrnambool Incident Control Centre Nurdle Response Update

Thursday 7 December 2017 – Edition 7 - Time Issued: 12:30pm

#### WHAT IS A NURDLE

Nurdles are pre-production plastic beads (they look like tiny 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 once again be targeting district beaches with the highest density of nurdles. These include:

- East Beach, from Connolly St heading east, Port Fairy (two crews)
- Shelly Beach/Second Bay, Warrnambool (one crew)

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.

The IMT is looking to coordinate a community clean-up effort on the weekend. There will likely be two volunteer clean-up sites and we're expecting these to occur from 1:00pm to 3:00pm (to be confirmed).

#### LATEST UPDATES

- A dolphin found washed up on East Beach on Monday morning was been taken to Werribee Veterinary School for analysis. Preliminary results show the death was unrelated to nurdle ingestion.
- An investigation into the source of the nurdles is underway and will take some time to complete. This is a priority for Wannon Water. The joint investigation is being undertaken by specialist staff from Wannon Water and the Environment Protection Authority.
- The Wannon Water Facebook page will be updated regularly with details of scheduled beach clean-ups and other news.
- Thanks to all the schools who have been involved in the clean-up efforts to date. Wannon Water has

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presented the students who helped out with Choose Tap water bottles in appreciation of their great efforts.

#### RESEARCH

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



#### COMMUNITY MEETING

A meeting was held last night with representatives from interested community and environmental groups to update them on the latest developments and answer questions.

#### MAPPING THE NURDLES

The DELWP/Wannon Water emergency management team has been deploying field crews this week to survey the occurrence of nurdles at beaches along the

coastline, which helps direct the clean-up effort towards the most heavily affected areas.

The latest map is available at [www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles](http://www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles) and shows the clean-up efforts are making some good progress.

Based on information provided by the community, today's mapping will take place around Pea Soup and South Beach, Port Fairy.

### **WILDLIFE**

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.

### **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: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Cloudy. Very high (90%) chance of rain, most likely during this afternoon and early evening. The chance of a thunderstorm this afternoon. Light winds becoming west to southwesterly 20 to 25 km/h in the morning then turning southerly 20 to 30 km/h in the late afternoon. Maximum temperature 20 degrees.

### **NURDLE DROP-OFF POINTS**

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.

#### **WARRNAMBOOL:**

- Wannon Water, 25 Gateway Road (Mon-Fri)
- Pavilion Café, Warrnambool Breakwater
- Shelly Beach (community bin)
- Hopkins Point Milk Bar, East Warrnambool
- Levy's Beach car park
- Levy's Beach walking track
- Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club

#### **PORT FAIRY:**

- Surf Life Saving Club (community bin)
- Connolly Street car park
- Moyne Shire offices (Mon-Fri)

#### **KILLARNEY:**

- Killarney Beach

### **STAY INFORMED**

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

#### ***Facebook:***

**Wannon Water**

**Good Will Nurdle Hunting (community group)**

#### ***Websites:***

**Wannon Water**

[www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles](http://www.wannonwater.com.au/nurdles)

**Warrnambool City Council**

[www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au](http://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au)

**Moyne Shire Council**

[www.moyne.vic.gov.au](http://www.moyne.vic.gov.au)

### **NEXT UPDATE**

Friday 8th December