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30 April 2009

Mosquito-Borne Disease Control Branch
Department of Health
PO Box 8172
PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6849

By email: mosquito@health.wa.gov.au

To whom it may concern:

Re: Review of the Contiguous Local Authorities Group (CLAG) funding scheme for health-driven mosquito management

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA WA) would like to add its support to the submission made by the City of Mandurah on the review of the CLAG funding scheme for health-driven mosquito management. UDIA (WA) is the peak body representing the property development industry in Western Australia with members drawn from the land development, planning, engineering, environmental and urban design professions. Utility providers, State government agencies and Local Government Authorities are also valued members of UDIA.

The CLAG scheme has been operating for 18 years and is an outstanding example of a State-Local Government partnership operating at a regional level. The following comments are offered for the consideration of the Department of Health and are made on behalf of the City of Mandurah as it relates to the Peel CLAG, which also incorporates the Local Government Authorities of Waroona, Murray and Rockingham.

The City of Mandurah has expressed concern that the Department of Health will seek to reallocate future funding away from the Peel region. The data provided in the discussion paper indicate that historically, the Peel region has been the recipient of a high proportion of the DoH expenditure on larvicides and helicopter spraying. The scale of the breeding areas around the Peel waterways justifies this expenditure with mosquito management remaining a significant issue that affects the daily lives of people within the Peel Region.

The allocation of resources by the state government to mosquito management through the CLAG program is accountable and provides excellent value for the impact it has on the lives and health of residents in the region. The City of Mandurah is a high growth area which is becoming increasingly urbanised and mosquito management is a public health issue that local governments could not be expected to fund without assistance from the State through the DoH. We understand that the City of Mandurah contributes significant resources to the program each year and will continue to support the program in line with community expectations.

It is also relevant to mention that the Peel Mosquito Management Group have been identifying ways of improving outcomes and have pinpointed opportunities to improve mosquito operations within the Peel Region. The Peel Mosquito Management Group requires the full support of the Department of Health to implement these changes.

UDIA trusts that you will give these comments due consideration when determining the future allocation of the CLAG funding scheme for mosquito management and we encourage the DoH to continue supporting local authorities across the state in this vitally important program.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Goostrey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Debra Goostrey
Chief Executive Officer