

13.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - MAYOR ALISON XAMON - RODENTICIDE USE

Attachments: Nil

That Council:

1. NOTES that:

- 1.1 the City of Vincent only uses First-Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (FGARs) in its operations and services;
- 1.2 the City's website provides up to date information in relation to the control of rodents, and includes non-baiting options; and
- 1.3 all demolition permits issued by the City include the following advice: *"The use of first-generation anticoagulant rodenticides is strongly recommended to reduce secondary poisoning occurring in non-target animals such as native birds of prey"*; and

2. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer to:

- 2.1 write to the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) to seek an update on the outcomes of their Central Metropolitan Zone meeting, Item 6.2 'Campaign to Legislate Second Generation Anti-coagulant rodenticides' in April 2022; and
- 2.2 undertake a community education program to raise awareness of the impacts of Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs) on native wildlife, which will include:
 - 2.2.1 Producing a fact sheet for community members, to be provided to residents in City of Vincent welcome packs and available in the library;
 - 2.2.2 Delivering a communications campaign via Vincent social media channels to promote wildlife responsible rodent control and emphasise the importance of early reporting of sightings and infestations to enable timely intervention;
 - 2.2.3 Sourcing and providing information from Birdlife Australia to the community and business on "owl friendly" choices for rodent control;
 - 2.2.4 Promotion of Owl Awareness Day on August 4 as an annual reminder to community and business about wildlife responsible rodent control; and
 - 2.2.5 Distribute educational brochures to food businesses and residents on reports of rodent sightings, that encourage alternative methods of rodent control and where baiting is necessary, recommend the use of FGARs over SGARs.

REASON

Non-target animals including owls, eagles, magpies and other native wildlife are at risk of secondary poisoning by anticoagulant rodenticides. It is important that the community is aware of the risks associated with using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and their impact on non-target species.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Administration supports the Notice of Motion.

Rodents are common in urban areas due to the food and shelter provided by human activity. As rodents can cause many issues, including contributing to the spread of disease, it is important that the community take steps to manage rodent activity. Property owners and occupiers are required to take measures to prevent rodents from harbouring on their property, in accordance with the *Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911*.

Rodent control can take on many forms and includes prevention activities, as well as baiting and non-baiting options. Anticoagulant rodenticides are a class of poisons used to kill rodents.

First-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs) are referred to as 'multi-dose anticoagulants', meaning that rodents must consume these baits for several consecutive feedings to consume a lethal dose. FGARs break down in rodents quicker than second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, so there is less chance of secondary poisoning occurring in non-target animals if they eat rodents poisoned with an FGAR.

Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) are referred to as 'single-dose anticoagulants'. A lethal dose can be ingested in a single feeding, making SGARs substantially more potent than FGARs. SGARs are slower to break down than FGARs and pose a higher risk of secondary poisoning to non-target animals (source: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority).

It is important that the community is aware of the risks associated with using second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) and their impact on non-target species.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 14 March 2023, Council considered a motion from the preceding Annual Meeting of Electors as follows:

"Motion 4.2(2) – Rodenticide

That the use of rodenticides be strongly discouraged, and in particular, the use of SGARs be banned from use in the City."

Administration's response to this noted the following:

- The use of rodenticide was subject to a motion through the Western Australian Local Government Association's Central Metropolitan Zone in April 2022 which resolved that WALGA:
 - *undertake a campaign with the State Government to take urgent action to legislate to restrict the sale of (SGARs); and*
 - *to undertake a campaign with Local Governments which provide rodent baiting to residents for the Local Governments to not provide this type of poison and specify on demolition permits or for health orders that this type of poison is not to be used.*
- In considering the above motion WALGA resolved to:
 - *provide information to Local Governments through EnviroNews and LGNews and also consider disseminating social media collateral to Local Government; and*
 - *continue to monitor progress with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) review.*

Administration further clarified the City's use of rodenticide as follows:

- As part of the demolition process, applicants are required to bait their premises for rodents prior to works commencing. In May 2022, the City's Building Services updated the permit template for Demolitions, to include the following advice: 'The use of FGARs is strongly recommended to reduce secondary poisoning occurring in non-target animals such as native birds of prey'.
- Since May 2022, the City's Health Services have switched products and now supply only FGARs as part of the 'free rat bait' program available to the City's residents.
- The City's website <https://www.vincent.wa.gov.au/animals-and-pests.aspx> provides information to residents on non-baiting options to control rodents, but also specifies that if baiting is required, the City recommends the use of FGARs.
- The City's own program for control of rodents around City buildings and facilities will limit rodenticides to FGARs.

Council noted that the City currently takes the approach of limiting the use of SGARs for rodent control AND subsequently resolved the following:

"That Council REQUESTS that Administration limits the use of SGARs for rodent control."

Since that time, the City has ceased use of SGARs in all operations and services provided to the community.

Administration will engage with WALGA to seek an update on the outcomes of the campaign referenced at their Central Metropolitan Zone meeting in April 2022.

For awareness, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Authority (APVMA) has commenced a 'reconsideration of anticoagulant rodenticide'. This will reassess the potential risks associated with the use of these products and consider whether labels carry adequate instructions to protect the health and safety of people, animals, and the environment.

Anticoagulant rodenticides; warfarin, coumatetralyl, diphacinone, brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, difethialone and flocoumafen were nominated for review.

Publication of the decision is expected in December 2024. The City's Administration will follow the progress of this review.