

# Bolivar Bulletin

August 2008

A newsletter for neighbours of the Bolivar wastewater treatment plant



## We couldn't do it without the midge watchers

We would like to thank all the diligent midge watchers who participated in last season's monitoring. Your data helps develop and target our midge control program.

The Midge Watch program runs for 12 weeks across the summer season and involves participants observing and recording midge activity around their home and submitting weekly data sheets.

This data enables us to understand midge activity once they turn into flying adults. As well as Midge Watch we undertake a number of monitoring activities on site at the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our monitoring includes measuring larval numbers in the lagoons (weekly in summer, fortnightly in autumn/spring and monthly during winter).

Each month we also check the number of native fish in our lagoons as they feed on midges as larvae, eggs and adults.

During summer we also use adult midge traps which we check every day. These traps are a simple but effective way to measure how many adults come out of the lagoons. The traps consist of an inflated rubber inner tube with a plastic perspex cover on the top. Under the perspex is sticky yellow plastic so as the tube floats it collects the adults as they leave the water and we can count them.

If you're interested in participating in next season's Midge Watch program please contact the SA Water Customer Contact Centre on 1300 650 950 to register your details.

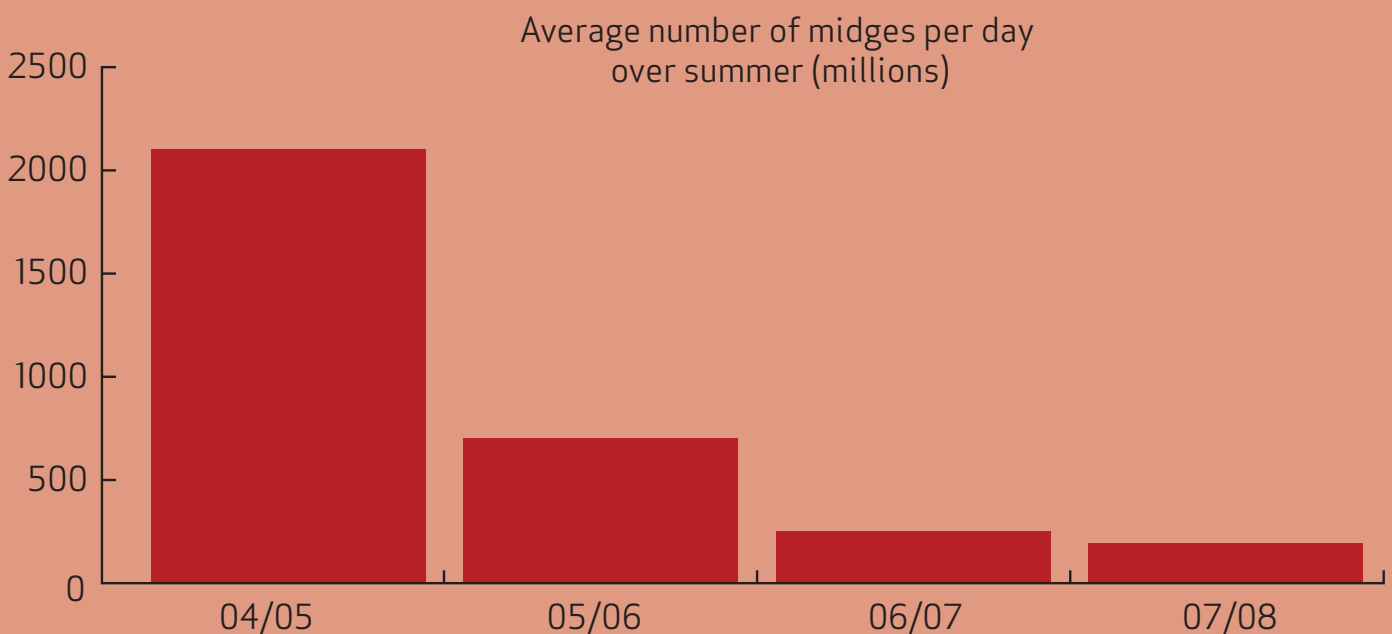
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## A summary of the 2007-08 Midge Watch results

This year's results reflect a decline in the number of midges present in the Bolivar area. To help control the midges we employed a similar approach to the two previous seasons which saw substantially lower numbers than previous years.

The Midge Watch results show that overall residents experienced fewer midges than previous years, with St Kilda and Bolivar in particular showing pleasing reductions in numbers. Along with the controls we implemented, it's likely the record heat wave played a part in reducing the number of midges making it beyond the lagoons.

The management approach this season included keeping half the lagoons at Bolivar empty, applying surface repellent around the lagoons and timing discharges into the sludge management ponds to minimise midge larvae breeding.



## Midge versus Mosquito

During the Midge Watch program, a number of comments were received in relation to mosquitoes. It is important to understand the difference between midges and mosquitoes. While mosquito activity isn't related to the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant, there are ways you can help control the population around your home.

Prevention is similar to what we have been doing at Bolivar to help reduce the midges. In essence, if you remove a breeding ground the numbers should reduce.

Strategies include:

- Disposing of tin cans, plastic, ceramic pots and other containers that may hold water
- Storing garden goods like watering cans and wheelbarrows upside down
- Clearing your roof gutters and ensure they drain properly
- Draining water from your pool cover
- Removing old tyres from the property
- Eliminating any standing water that collects on your property
- Emptying plant pot saucers every few weeks.

Mosquitos belong to the family Culicidae. Both males and females can drink nectar but only the females drink blood. The blood meal isn't for their survival but rather they use the protein and iron in the blood to make their eggs. Most mosquitoes are killed within a week, but under perfect conditions a mosquito can live for months and produce multiple batches of eggs

The midges at Bolivar belong to the family Chironomidae. Adult midges can drink nectar but usually they don't as they only live long enough to swarm, mate and lay their eggs. An adult midge can only lay a single batch of eggs; they don't use blood to make eggs and don't bite.

Midges look a lot like mosquitos, the main differences are that midges are smaller in size and they don't make a high pitched humming noise.



*Images do not reflect the actual size of the insects*

## Virginia Angle Vale Reuse Extension

Construction has started on a project involving the Bolivar Wastewater Treatment Plant. The \$6.6 million Virginia Angle Vale Reuse Extension will provide an extra three billion litres each year of high quality treated wastewater through a 20 kilometre pipeline network to horticulturalists and market gardeners at Angle Vale.

The project will:

- Contribute to increasing Adelaide's use of recycled water
- Reduce discharge of nutrients into the Gulf St Vincent
- Reduce demand pressure on the region's groundwater resources
- Contribute to reducing River Murray extractions.

The Virginia Angle Vale Reuse Extension means 35% of treated wastewater from the Bolivar plant will be reused.

The Virginia and Angle Vale regions support one of South Australia's most valuable horticultural areas. Pressures on local underground water supplies were eased in 1999 with the development of the country's first and largest reclaimed water scheme of its type, the Virginia Pipeline. This already distributes about 15 billion litres per year of treated wastewater from Bolivar to irrigators via more than 100 kilometres of pipes.

Adelaide is a leader in recycling water, currently reusing about 20% of water treated in wastewater plants compared with the national average of 9%. The Virginia Angle Vale Reuse Extension will add to the growing list of projects in South Australia using recycled water.

For more information on SA Water projects visit [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)



## Contacts

If you wish to register a midge fly problem in your area, please call **1300 650 950**.

For further information about SA Water or United Water, visit [www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au) or [www.uwi.com.au](http://www.uwi.com.au)