A second wave of measures to eliminate the threat of dengue mosquitoes in the Tennant Creek will coincide with enhanced surveillance for the mosquito in other parts of the Northern Territory. A survey of the rest of the Northern Territory for possible outbreaks.

Intense lobbying of the Commonwealth by the Northern Territory Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne has secured a $1 million funding from the Department of Health and Ageing.

“The second stage of this campaign against the dengue mosquito will help to eradicate the danger in the Tennant Creek area and prevent it from spreading elsewhere,” Dr Toyne said.

This will involve a major elimination program in the lead-up to the rainy season:

- house to house inspections of all 1100 properties for larvae
- adult mosquito trapping and setting lethal egg traps
- insecticide treatment and possible elimination of dengue mosquito breeding sites
- limited fogging to control adult mosquitoes
- treatment of rainwater tanks
- public relations and clean-up operations
- continued recording and evaluation using specialised trapping techniques
- repeated survey and treatment of premises
“When the dengue mosquito was discovered in Tennant Creek earlier in February this year the Territory Government launched a co-ordinated and concerted campaign to control the mosquito incursion outbreak.”

“The elimination program included a media program, distributing cans of surface spray to all properties in Tennant Creek, a fogging operation of the town, and a door-to-door program to survey and treat all receptacles with a residual insecticide.”

“These measures will be consolidated and expanded.”

“The first priority is to ensure the threat is eliminated in Tennant Creek – the second priority is to ensure it doesn't spread to any other part of the Territory.”

The second sweep of Tennant Creek has been welcomed by the Member for Barkly Elliot McAdam.

“This is a serious threat, and it's been treated seriously by the Martin Government from day one, and we will continue to do so,” McAdam said.

Mr McAdam said he thanked the people of Tennant Creek for their effort to rid the town of the exotic mosquito but urged the community to remain vigilant and involved.

The additional program will go a long way to ensuring that Tennant Creek will become free of the Dengue mosquito.”

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