

Mosquitoes

This fact sheet has been designed to provide you with information about mosquitoes and how to protect yourself and your household.

Council does not operate a mosquito management program. Although Council has undertaken fogging in the past, this is no longer the case. Research indicates that fogging raises significant concerns with human health and environmental safety. The chemical can have adverse effects for sensitive groups such as children and the elderly and fogging can also inadvertently harm non target species, including beneficial insects and aquatic life, disrupting local ecosystems.

Protect yourself and your household

You can protect yourself by:

- limiting your time in mosquito-prone areas, especially around dawn and dusk
- wearing loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing with long sleeves and long trousers
- using a personal insect repellent containing picaridin or DEET on exposed skin
- screening doors and windows or using air conditioning
- sleeping under a mosquito bed net
- using mosquito coils, lanterns and insecticide emanators
- switching on a fan as the airflow produced will help keep mosquitoes away
- Remove potential breeding sites
- managing containers which can become water-filled around your property
- screening and maintaining your rainwater tanks

Types of mosquitoes

There are several different mosquitoes that can impact you, your family and your pets. The predominant ones in Cassowary Coast are:

- saltmarsh mosquitoes (*Aedes vigilax*) - breed in saltmarsh and mangrove habitats
- freshwater breeding mosquitoes (*Culex annulirostris*)
 - breed after rainfall
- container breeding mosquitoes (*Aedes notoscriptus*)
 - usual habitat is the home garden & containers



Saltmarsh mosquitoes (*Aedes vigilax*)

www.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au

This specie of mosquito breeds in:

- saltmarsh
- wetlands

Although the saltmarsh mosquito lives only for a few weeks the adult mosquito can travel 10km to feed, with females returning to the wetlands to lay her eggs.

During the warmer months, the water temperature rises and this rapidly increases the speed at which larvae grow, resulting in an egg becoming an adult mosquito in just five-to-six days. With each mosquito capable of laying hundreds of eggs at a time, adult numbers can escalate quickly.

During especially hot, dry periods, multiple generations of saltmarsh mosquito eggs can lay dormant on wetland shores for months. Sudden, heavy rains or a significant high tide that submerges these eggs, can then trigger a mass hatching (of eggs to larvae stage).

Freshwater breeding mosquitoes (*Culex annulirostris*)

This specie of mosquito breeds in:

- shallow freshwater pools
- grassy drains and depressions
- rural areas such as cane fields & banana plantations

The common banded freshwater-breeding mosquito is a carrier of Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses in Queensland. Other freshwater breeding mosquitoes can also carry these viruses, as well as heartworm, which effects cats and dogs.

Landowners are responsible for managing of the control of mosquitoes on their land.

Container-breeding mosquitoes (*Aedes notoscriptus*)

This specie of mosquito breeds in:

- natural containers such as:

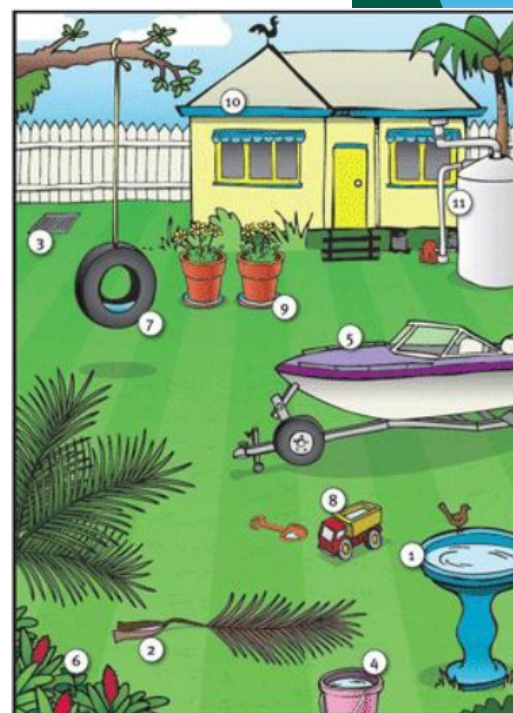
- tree cavities
- bromeliads
- made containers such as:
 - pot plant saucers
 - bird baths
 - discarded tyres
 - garden rubbish
 - roof gutters
 - unmaintained, unchlorinated swimming pools
 - poorly-maintained rainwater tanks.

Adult container-breeding mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in containers.

The eggs remain dormant until rain or watering fills these containers, triggering the eggs to hatch into larvae.

Adult mosquitoes will be abundant about a week after this happens.

This species also occurs in winter in well-watered gardens and can transmit heartworm to pets. Control of this species requires property owners to be aware of breeding sites and remove or manage them.



Check for potential breeding sites weekly, including:

- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|-------------|
| 1 | Bird bath | 6 | Bromeliad |
| 2 | Palm frond | 7 | Tyre |
| 3 | Sump pit | 8 | Toys |
| 4 | Bucket | 9 | Pot plants |
| 5 | Boat | 10 | Roof gutter |
| | | 11 | Water tank |

Help keep these mosquitoes out of our region by remembering that anything around your property that can hold water is a potential breeding site, including palm fronds!

Further Information

For further information on **How To Keep Your Water Tank Safe** from mosquitoes, visit: https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0034/719773/rainwater-tank.pdf

For further information on **Prevention of Mosquitoes After a Storm, Flood or Cyclone** visit:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/disaster/public-health-advice/mosquitos-and-black-flies>

For further information on **Removing Potential Breeding Sites**, visit: <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/all/prevention/mosquito-borne/control/breeding-sites>

For advice on control and prevention of mosquito breeding contact Council Environmental Health Officers at 1300 763 903 or email enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au.