

TACKLING MOSQUITOES TOGETHER



**PROTECT YOURSELF
PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY**
**FROM THE DISEASE RISKS AND
NUISANCE OF MOSQUITOES**



WWW.TACKLINGMOSQUITOESTOGETHER.COM.AU



WELCOME

Welcome to the **Tackling Mosquitoes Together** program - thank you for signing up!

Soon, you'll start receiving our SMS reminders to help you reduce, and protect yourself from, mozzies around your home and in your community.

We've put together this **Tackling Mosquitoes Together** education pack that includes:

- this information brochure
- a sticker to display on your mailbox, kerbside bin or car
- a weekly backyard checklist – this can be used as a fridge magnet or tied to a place that's convenient for you (e.g an outdoor tap)
- mosquito repellent FAQ's and instructions
- mosquito repellent.

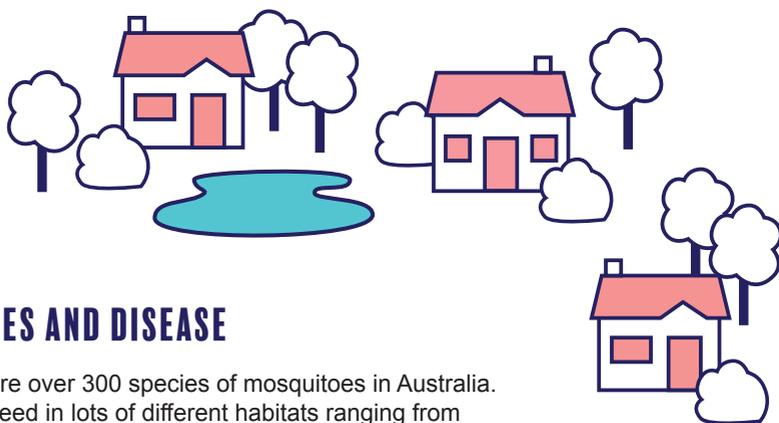
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Tackling Mosquitoes Together is a community-driven pilot program to reduce the disease risks and nuisance of mosquitoes in homes and local communities in the Northern Rivers.

By taking action **together**, we can:

- reduce the number of mosquitoes breeding in water-holding containers in our backyards
- protect ourselves and our families from exposure to mosquitoes
- reduce the public health risks caused by mosquitoes.

If we all do our bit in our own backyard, together we will protect our community.



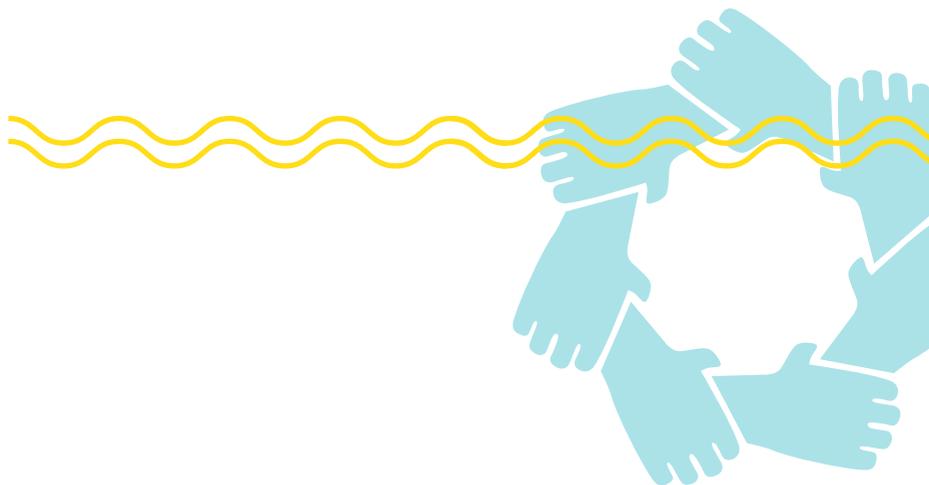
MOSQUITOES AND DISEASE

There are over 300 species of mosquitoes in Australia. They breed in lots of different habitats ranging from wetlands and floodplains to small backyard water-holding containers.

The Northern Rivers is home to many of these species. Not only are mozzies a nuisance, but they can spread human disease-causing pathogens including Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus. These viruses aren't fatal but can cause serious illness and have long-term health impacts.

Some of the mosquito species that spread these viruses breed in water-holding containers around our homes.

And that's why it's so important
we tackle mosquitoes **together**.



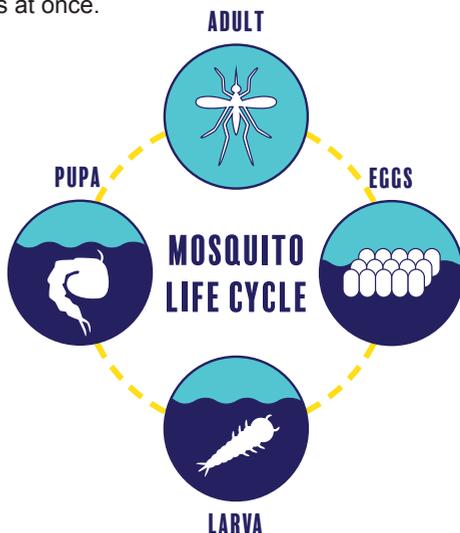
MOZZIES IN THE BACKYARD

Water-holding containers make perfect mozzie breeding habitats. Many of these water-holding containers are found in our backyards and around our homes.

Mozzies lay their eggs on and around still and stagnant water, and can lay more than 300 eggs at once.

The mozzie breeding cycle only takes about 10 days (sometimes less) – that’s a lot of extra mozzies around your home each week!

To reduce mozzies around your home, we recommend emptying backyard water-holding containers **once a week**.



THE MOST COMMON BACKYARD MOSQUITO BREEDING HABITATS ARE:

- Pet bowls
- Buckets
- Watering cans
- Kids toys
- Bromeliads
- Fallen palm fronds
- Rubbish that holds water
- Wading pools
- Unmaintained spa baths and pools
- Boats
- Stock troughs
- Tarpaulins
- Gutters
- Water tanks
- Plant pot drip trays
- Bird baths
- Old tyres



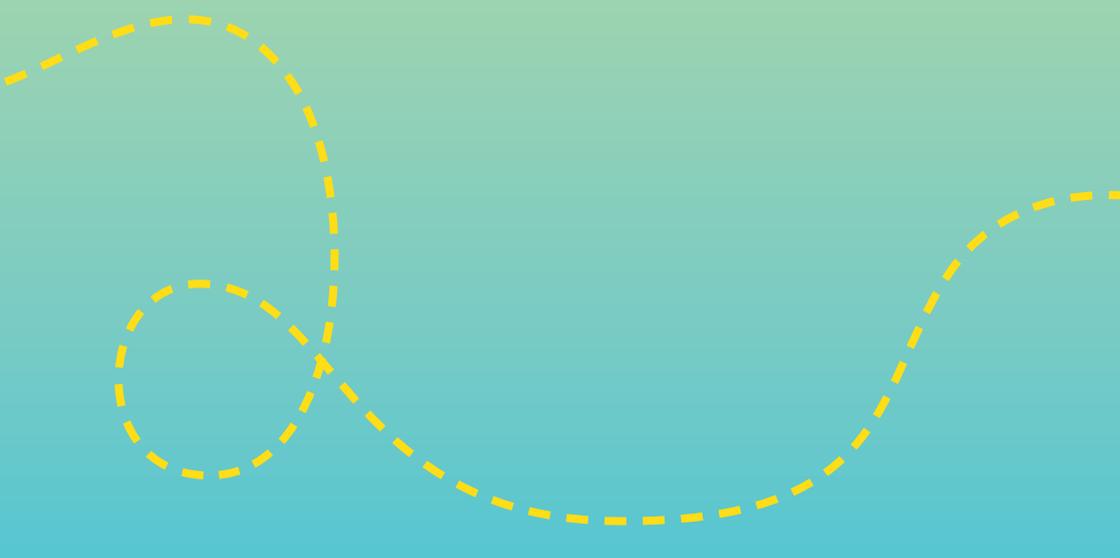
TIPS TO REDUCE MOZZIES IN YOUR BACKYARD

- Empty, cover or remove water-holding containers from your backyard once a week.
- Empty, clean and refill pet bowls, bird baths and stock troughs once a week.
- Clean and maintain existing water bodies. For example keep ponds free of aquatic weeds.
- Fill pot plant drip trays with sand to absorb excess water.
- Reduce the number of water-holding plants in your backyard, for example bromeliads. If you do grow these lovely plants, give them a quick flush with the hose once a week.
- Screen or cover gutters, drains and rain water tanks.
- Clean gutters regularly so they drain freely.
- Introduce native fish that feed on mosquito eggs and larvae into garden ponds.
- Treat water-holding containers that can't be removed with something like a larvicide or insecticide.



TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MOZZIES

- Apply insect repellent before you spend time outside.
- Wear protective clothing when you go outside, including long sleeved shirts and pants.
- Mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk, and they love bushland and wetland areas. Try to avoid outdoor activities at these peak times and places.
- Install insect screens on your windows, doors and outdoor living areas.
- Mozzie coils will help reduce mosquito bites but they don't provide full protection. Coils with insecticide work best as they kill mozzies.



BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF MOZZIES IN YOUR BACKYARD, YOU ARE:

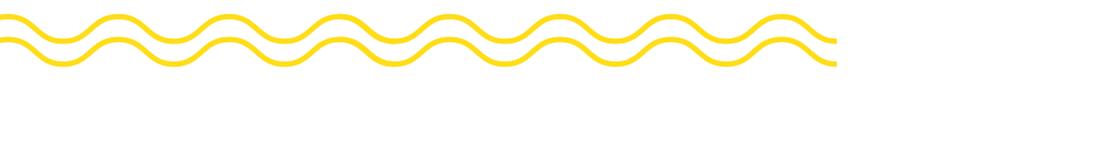
- Protecting yourself, your family and your community from mosquito disease risks.
- Able to spend more time outside with friends and family without the nuisance of mosquitoes.
- Making our individual efforts more effective!
The more people who get involved, the bigger impact we will make together.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Start checking your backyard or property for mosquito breeding habitats.
- Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to sign up and take action.

For more information and to sign up to the **Tackling Mosquitoes Together** program go to:

www.tacklingmosquitoestogether.com.au



This project is a collaboration between the seven Northern Rivers Councils. It has been co-designed with our local communities to make it easy and convenient to take action.



TWEED
SHIRE COUNCIL

ballina
shire council



Byron Shire Council



lismore
city council

Richmond
Valley
Council



clarence
VALLEY COUNCIL

This project has been proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.



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MOSQUITOES
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