

Fact Sheet

Mosquito FAQs

What are mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes are small, flying insects that can be found breeding along natural coastal and freshwater habitats. Mosquitoes can also be found breeding in backyards in small amounts of water often found pooling in old tyres, toys and pot plant bases.

While male mosquitoes pollinate some plants and eat nectar, female mosquitoes need a blood meal and will bite both humans and animals. Peak breeding season for mosquitoes is generally between October to April each year.



What types of mosquitoes do we have in Redland City?

Redland City is home to many different species of freshwater, saltmarsh and container breeding mosquitoes. The most common species currently found in Redland City is the *Aedes Vigilax*, also known as the Saltmarsh mosquito, *Culex Sitiens*, *Aedes Noto scriptus* and the *Culex annulirostris*.

Are mosquitoes a public health risk?

Mosquitoes are considered a designated pest under the *Public Health Act 2005*. Several species of mosquito found in Redland City are known to transmit disease to humans, including Ross River Fever and Barmah Forest Virus.

What chemicals are needed to treat mosquitoes?

Council has a Marine Parks Permit from the Queensland Government which permits the use of only two types of chemicals to treat mosquitoes within the Moreton Bay Marine Park area. These chemicals are (S) *Methoprene* and *Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis* (BTI), both of which are target specific chemicals for mosquitoes and therefore do not harm any other aquatic organisms.

What areas do we treat?

Council's Mosquito Management Program treats mosquitoes in their larval form, as this is the most effective form of treatment. This means treatments are targeted in areas that mosquitoes breed in, such as saltmarsh and freshwater locations throughout the city. For our latest treatment list visit our Redland City Council Mosquito webpage at redland.qld.gov.au/mosquitoes for all the latest treatment information.

What type of treatments do we use for mosquitoes?

Currently, our program consists of both aerial and ground treatments using specialised equipment such as helicopters, drones, backpack blowers and quad bikes.

Why can't Council fog or spray for adult mosquitoes?

Fogging or misting insecticides for mosquitoes is not an effective or safe form of treatment. Fogging eliminates the mosquitoes present at the time of application, with more taking their place once the chemical dissipates. Not only are the treatments ineffective in managing mosquito numbers, the insecticides used will also kill any other insect which are important to the ecology of Redlands Coast.

In rare emergency situations, alternative treatments such as fogging or misting may be considered during declared natural disasters such as large scale flooding events, where it is impossible to access and treat all impacted areas resulting in mass outbreaks of mosquitoes that pose a significant public health risk.

When is the best time to treat for mosquitoes?

After a significant rain event, tidal event of 2.4m or great tidal event of the Brisbane Bar, as this creates pools of water where mosquitoes breed.

Why do we still have mosquitoes even after Council has treated?

Although all attempts are made to reduce the mosquito population as low as possible, it is impossible to eliminate them completely from our environment. Mosquitoes are found breeding all across South East Queensland, in saltmarsh and freshwater locations and suburban backyards. Our most common Redlands mosquito, the salt marsh mosquito, has a pest range of 5km and flight range of up to 50km so can be found anywhere across our City from multiple different locations.

Aside from treatments, what else does Council's Mosquito Management Program do?

While treatments form a large part of the program, other aspects also include proactive surveillance for mosquito breeding and numbers, exotic mosquito surveillance, habitat modification (runnel maintenance), research projects, community engagement and education. For more information on our program read Council's *Mosquito Management Action Plan 2019 – 2024* via our website at redland.qld.gov.au/mosquitoes.

What can I do to protect myself from mosquitoes?

When venturing outdoors during peak mosquito breeding season, wear clothing that is long, loose-fitting and light in colour. Apply insect repellents (natural repellents can also be used) particularly to areas that are exposed and not protected by clothing.

What can I do around the home to protect from mosquitoes?

There are many options for residents depending on individual circumstances. These include:

- Install and maintain fine-mesh flyscreens on windows and doors of your home.
- Treat normal flyscreens with UV stable insecticide surface spray.
- Use insect spray, mosquito coils or plug-in insecticide burners.
- Increase air flow inside the home by using fans or other air circulation devices.
- Keep vegetation surrounding the house to a minimum to reduce insect-harboured areas.
- Contact your local pest technician to discuss other suitable options such as barrier treatments.

Does Redland City Council work with other organisations or Councils in relation to mosquito management?

Redland City Council is an active member of the Mosquito Arbovirus Research Committee (MARC), Regional Mosquito Management Group (RMMG) and the North East Moreton Mosquito Organisation (NEMMO). Council also works with Queensland Health and the Mosquito Control Laboratory at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research-Berghofer on a number of research projects.