

BUZZ OFF!

Mosquito management around the home



Warm weather, combined with regular or heavy rainfall, can lead to increased mosquito activity across the island.

Biosecurity identifies mosquitoes collected as part of routine surveillance on the island and in July 2025 they have made Council aware there have been very high numbers of *Aedes notoscriptus* on Norfolk Island.

While this mosquito is not unusual on Norfolk Island, high numbers are cause for concern as it means conditions are ideal for breeding.

Aedes notoscriptus is known for its aggressive daytime biting behaviour and its role in transmitting diseases such as Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and dog heartworm. Reducing the number of biting mosquitoes on Norfolk Island protects our community, our pets and our environment.

Mosquitoes need standing water to breed, with some requiring the smallest amount of water to breed in. Females lay eggs on the surface of the water or the water's edge. The eggs then hatch into larvae (wigglers), which live under the surface of still water and breathe air through the surface. The larvae go through four stages before becoming pupae, which again live under water, emerging from the water soon after as an adult. The life cycle can be completed in 7-10 days.

There are precautions we can all take to reduce their numbers and protect ourselves from being bitten.

Around your home:

- remove items that may collect water such as old tyres and empty pots from around your yard to reduce the places where mosquitoes can breed
- keep your lawns mowed
- flush and wipe out bird baths and water features once a week
- fill pot plant bases with sand to avoid standing water
- flush out the leaves of water-holding plants such as bromeliads once a week
- keep drains and roof guttering clear to avoid standing water
- cover or securely screen the openings of septic tanks and rainwater tanks
- refresh weekly indoor plants and flower vases
- refresh pet bowls regularly



Protect yourself from bites:

- wear loose fitting long pants and long sleeved tops
- use insect repellent
- install fly screens on windows, doors, vents, and other entrances
- use mosquito nets for unscreened homes or when camping
- when mosquitoes are present, spray the rooms - behind furniture and dark places - and leave for 30 minutes before ventilating
- air conditioning, fans and mosquito coils also deter mosquitoes

** always follow the instructions of any spray product being used*

