

Northern Rivers councils and communities are Tackling Mosquitoes Together

Northern Rivers councils and the North Coast Public Health Unit have launched Tackling Mosquitoes Together. This is a pilot behaviour change program to reduce the disease risks and nuisance of mosquitoes in homes and local communities.

Tackling Mosquitoes Together invites residents to join a free SMS program for helpful tips and reminders to protect themselves, their family and community from mosquitoes.

The text messages also include videos, images and common mozzie myth busters.

The program encourages households to take action by reducing backyard mosquito breeding habitats, and through personal protection.

The most common mosquito-borne diseases in the Northern Rivers are Ross River Virus and Barmah Forrest Virus. They are not fatal, but they can cause serious illness and have long-term health impacts.

In 2020, the Northern NSW Local Health District reported 429 cases of Ross River Virus. That is the second highest number of cases on record, up from an average of 135 cases a year over the last 30 years.

“The impacts of climate change and severe wet weather events are increasing the risks of mosquito-borne disease,” said Ballina Shire Council’s Environmental Health Officer, Ms Kristy Bell.

“Cases of Ross River virus disease are most commonly reported in late Summer and early Autumn, so it’s important for the community to know what they can do to reduce risk.”

Tackling Mosquitoes Together has been co-designed with community, councils and other key stakeholders. Tackling Mosquitoes Together was proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Local Government NSW.

“If we all do our bit in our own backyard, we can make a difference and help protect the community,” added Ms Bell.

Media Spokesperson	Kristy Bell Environmental Health Officer 1300 864 444
Authorised By	Matt Wood Director - Planning and Environmental Health
Distribution	Local Media
