



Blackall-Tambo
Regional Council

Mosquito Management Program

10 February 2015

Policy Number: Stra 5

Version Number: Two

Chief Executive Officer
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Mayor
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1 OBJECTIVE

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council is committed to reducing the risk mosquitoes pose to our community.

Council has programs in place to control mosquitoes throughout the year. Council officers involved in Mosquito management are responsible for:

- Undertaking routine checks on urban and rural breeding sites
- Treating mosquito breeding sites where appropriate
- Misting and fogging of adult mosquitoes when deemed necessary

Council also relies on residents to control mosquitoes around their homes.

2 STATISTICS

There are 11 common species of mosquito in the Blackall-Tambo Region, some of which are capable of transmitting diseases to humans.

The following table displays Mosquito Species in our Region and the diseases they may carry.

Mosquito species	Found in BTRC area	Diseases carried
<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	Not found in BTRC area but has been found in Central West QLD	Dengue Fever and Chickungunya
<i>Aedes notoscriptus</i>	Yes	Ross River Virus and dog heart worm
<i>Aedes alternans</i>	Yes	Possible Ross River Virus carrier
<i>Aedes normanensis</i>	Yes	Murray Valley Encephalitis and Ross River Virus
<i>Aedes tremulus</i>	Yes	None
<i>Aedes vittiger</i>	Yes	Possible Ross River Virus carrier
<i>Anopheles annulipes</i>	Yes	Possible Malaria carrier and Ross River Virus
<i>Coquillettidia xanthogaster</i>	Yes	Ross River Virus
<i>Culex annulirostris</i>	Yes	Murray Valley and Japanese Encephalitis, Ross River Virus, and Kunjin virus
<i>Culex australicus</i>	Yes	Possibly Murray Valley Encephalitis and Kunjin Virus
<i>Culex quinquefasciatus</i>	Yes	Dog heart worm
<i>Mansonia uniformis</i>	Yes	None

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Mosquitoes can potentially breed in any fresh (polluted and unpolluted) water. This includes stagnant pools, ponds, drains, channels and other vessels (e.g. pots, containers) which hold water.

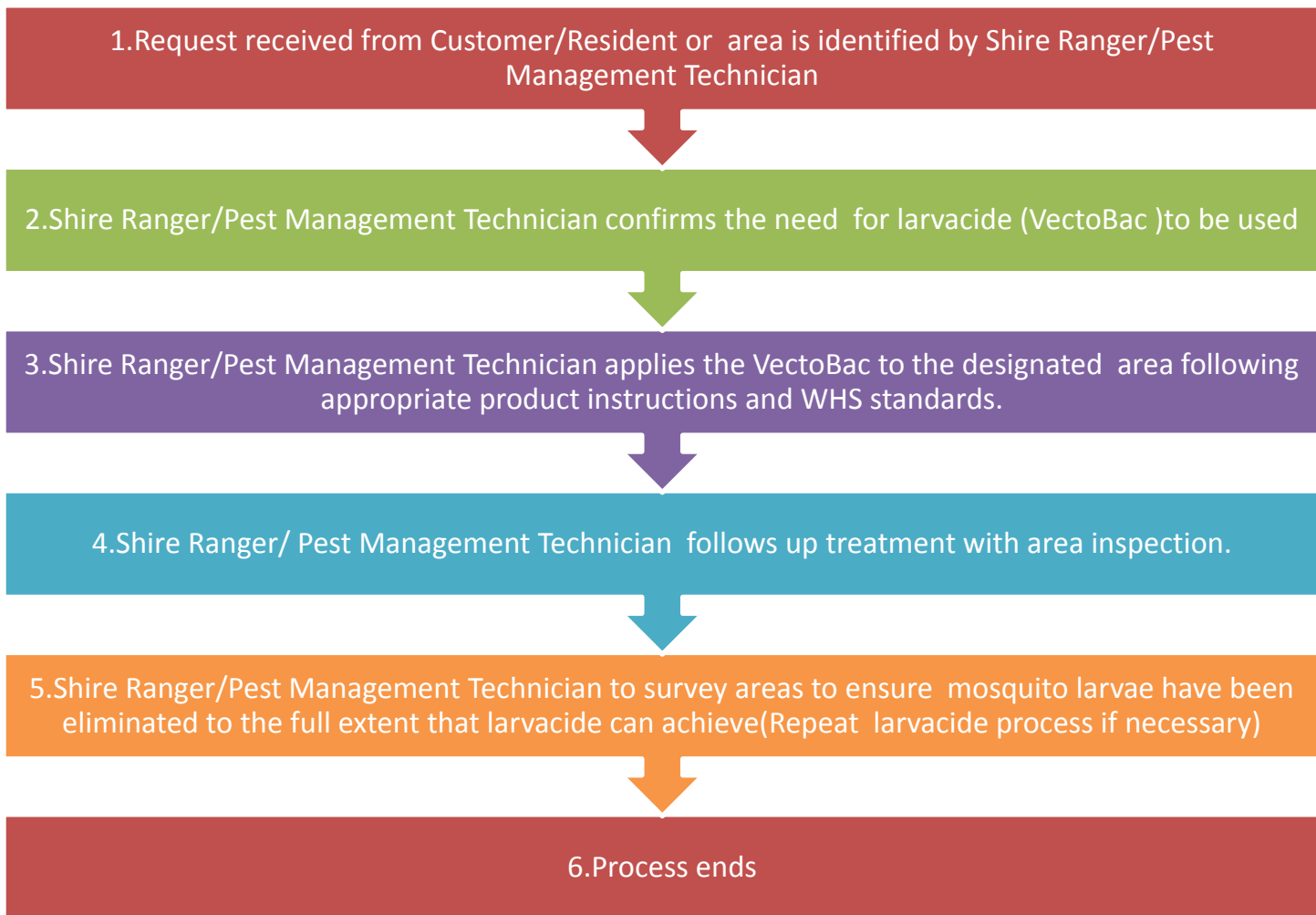
3 RURAL AND URBAN MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAMS

Fresh water areas in the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area are monitored for the presence of mosquito larvae. When revealed there is an unacceptable larva or adult count, treatment is undertaken.

3.1 LARVAE TREATMENT

The fresh water mosquito *Culex annulirostris* are vectors of Ross River fever and Barmah Forest virus. The larvae of these species, as well as the larvae of other non-vector (nuisance) mosquito species are treated with VectoBac G, a biological larvicide which kills mosquito larvae when ingested between the first and third larval instar (moult). This product is extremely safe, environmentally-friendly, targets mosquito larvae only and does not stay long in the environment.

3.2 COUNCIL PROCESS FOR APPLYING LARVICIDE



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3.3 ADULT MOSQUITOES TREATMENT

A proactive misting/ fogging program is also undertaken in urban areas adjacent to fresh water breeding sites.

The community will be informed of the pending emergence of large numbers of mosquitoes and when the fogging/misting will commence.

Blackall-Tambo Regional Council customers may request misting/fogging of their area if mosquitoes are deemed problematic. Misting/fogging involves the use of a synthetic pyrethroid which is registered for the control of mosquitoes in the community. Misting/fogging occurs from the back of a vehicle usually at dawn or dusk. Customers should note that misting should be undertaken **only as a last resort**, and with the following facts in mind:

- Synthetic pyrethroid is not discriminatory – it kills all insects with which it comes into contact, not just mosquitoes, and
- Misting is a very temporary treatment as it kills only the adult mosquitoes present on the day of misting.

3.4 COUNCIL PROCESS FOR HANDLING MOSQUITO COMPLAINTS/ REQUESTS FOR MISTING/FOGGING

1.Request received from Customer/Resident

2.Request sent to CEO for delegation to Shire Ranger/ Pest Management Technician

3.Shire Ranger/Pest Management Technician to survey area for mosquito outbreak/problem

4.Shire Ranger/ Pest Management Technician to commence misting/fogging following the product instructions and following WHS standards

5.Shire Ranger/Pest Management Technician to survey areas to ensure mosquitoes have been eliminated to the full extent that misting/fogging can achieve (Repeat misting/fogging process if necessary)

6.Process ends

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4 *Aedes aegypti* PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

The mosquito *Aedes aegypti* is a vector for dengue fever. This species commonly breeds in artificial and natural containers. Examples of artificial containers would include pot plants, saucers and tyres; natural containers would include bromeliads, tree axils and discarded palm fronds. Qld Health inspects properties in the region for the purpose of identifying *Aedes aegypti* and informing the public on how to control this species. If *Aedes aegypti* is identified on private property Qld Health in conjunction with Council has the ability to instruct the property owner/tenant to undertake control. At this stage, *Aedes aegypti* has not been found in the Blackall-Tambo Regional Council area. Qld Health will advise if this mosquito does appear in our area, and what action Council and the community must take.

5 PRIVATE PROPERTY

As Council does not treat individual homes, it is important that residents reduce the number of mosquitoes and potential mosquito breeding sites by:

- Removing water and wiping containers, such as pot plant saucers and animals' water containers, with a clean cloth every four days. Put the used cloth into the rubbish.
- Filling pot plant bases with sand or pebbles.
- Removing containers that could hold water – e.g. tyres.
- Keeping gutters clean and in good repair to prevent the pooling of water.
- Keeping ponds stocked with fish.
- Ensuring swimming pools are effectively chlorinated.
- Capping brick walls made of Besser and other cavity bricks to prevent water pooling.
- Overturning boats, canoes and dinghies or have drain plugs removed to avoid holding water.

Residents can reduce the risk of disease from mosquitoes further by:

- Wearing light-coloured protective clothing – e.g. loose-fitting long sleeve shirts and pants.
- Limiting the time spent outdoors around dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Using mosquito nets, mosquito coils, personal repellents and ceiling fans.
- Screening windows and doors.

6 MOSQUITOES AND THE LAW

Mosquitoes may represent a public health risk. Under the *Public Health Act 2005* residents are responsible for the control of mosquitoes on their properties.

When there is a public health risk caused by mosquitoes, Council is responsible for administering and enforcing the *Public Health Act 2005* in order to remove the risk. A Public Health Order may be issued to the owner/occupier of the premises requiring them to eliminate the mosquito harbourage to Council's satisfaction within a certain period of time. If the owner/occupier does not

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comply with the Public Health Order, Council may then apply to the Court for an Enforcement Order to have the work undertaken at the owner's/occupier's expense.

7 WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR PETS

- Screen all windows and doors to prevent mosquitoes coming inside;
- While outside wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing;
- Use insect repellent;
- If you live in an unscreened house or are camping, sleep under a mosquito net;
- Air conditioning, fans and mosquito coils are also effective in protecting you from mosquitoes.

Residents can play a vital role in reducing mosquitoes around the home. Inspect your house and yard and remove any accumulation of water:

- Empty pot plant bases weekly or fill the base with sand to absorb water;
- Wash out bromeliads and other water-holding plants weekly;
- Clean out roof gutters regularly and trim back trees which can block gutters;
- Ensure rainwater tanks are screened;
- Maintain swimming pools
- Wash out birdbaths, fishponds and ornamental pools weekly and where possible stock with suitable native fish.

8 FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONCERNS ABOUT MOSQUITOES

For further information, or to make a service request about mosquitoes, including suspected harbourage of mosquitoes please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 0746216600.

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