

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Mosquito control tips to fight the bite

**February 17, 2020**  
**COOKTOWN**

It's mosquito season, and locals are reminded to cover up, repel and clean up to help fight the bite.

As well as leaving an itchy welt, mosquitoes could spread diseases including Ross River virus and dengue fever, Cook Shire Council Environmental Health Officer Michelle Jordan said. "We encourage everyone to protect themselves from mosquitoes by following three simple steps – cover up, repel and clean up," Ms Jordan said. "Cover up with long-sleeved clothing, use repellent, surface spray and coils around your home and clean up anything which could hold water and become a breeding ground for more mossies."

Council supports Queensland Health's Arbovirus Sentinel Surveillance Program, installing and monitoring mosquito traps around Cooktown from January to June. The Sentinel program aims to help warn of virus emergence and provide valuable insights into virus ecology and epidemiology with the overarching objective of reducing disease risk. The traps capture mosquitoes which feed on honey soaked cards, leaving a trace which is analysed to test for viruses.

For more information contact Council's Environmental Health Officer via email at [mail@cook.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@cook.qld.gov.au) or phone on 4082 0500.

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