

NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring 2023-2024

Environmental Health Branch, Health Protection NSW

Weekly Update: Week ending 24 February 2024



Bottom left - Common banded mosquito, *Culex annulirostris* **Top and bottom right** - Saltmarsh mosquito, *Aedes vigilax* (Copyright 2020)

Weekly reports are available on [Mosquito-borne disease surveillance](#).

Please send questions or comments about this report to:

Surveillance and Risk Unit, Environmental Health Branch, Health Protection NSW: hssg-ehbsurveillance@health.nsw.gov.au

Testing and scientific services are provided by the Department of Medical Entomology, NSW Health Pathology, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research (ICPMR) for mosquito surveillance, and the Arbovirus Emerging Diseases Unit, NSW Health Pathology (ICPMR) for sentinel chicken surveillance.

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SPHN (EH) 230938

Summary

Arbovirus detections

Sentinel chickens

• There were no arbovirus detections in sentinel chickens for the week ending 24 February 2024.

Mosquito isolates

• In the week ending 24 February 2024, Stratford virus was detected in a mosquito sample from the Central Coast; Sindbis virus was detected in a sample in Tweed Heads; Kokobera virus was detected in a sample in Griffith; and Edge Hill virus was detected in a sample in the Northern Beaches.

Mosquito abundance

Inland

- **Low:** Albury, Balranald, Bathurst, Bourke, Grong Grong, Macquarie Marshes, Menindee, Moama, Moree, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Wagga Wagga.
- **Medium:** Corowa, Mathoura, Temora, Yass.
- **High:** Barham, Deniliquin, Forbes, Griffith, Leeton, West Wyalong.

Coastal

- **Low:** Byron Bay, Murwillumbah, Wauchope, Wyong.
- **High:** Ballina, Batemans Bay, Gosford, Lake Cathie, Nambucca, Port Macquarie, Tweed Heads.

Sydney

- **Low:** Penrith.
- **Medium:** Canada Bay, Hawkesbury, Hills Shire, Northern Beaches.
- **High:** Bankstown, Canada Bay, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Parramatta, Sydney Olympic Park.

Environmental conditions

Climate

- In the week ending 24 February 2024, rainfall was lower than average across the western region of NSW, and average or higher than average in the eastern part of NSW.
- In January, rainfall was slightly above average across most parts of NSW with the Northern NSW region experiencing higher than average levels of rainfall.
- In the coming week, 1 March to 7 March 2024, average rainfall is expected across most of NSW. Higher than average rainfall is expected in Hunter New England, Illawarra Shoalhaven, and Southern NSW regions of NSW.
- Minimum and maximum temperatures in NSW are expected to be higher than average across NSW in the coming week. Maximum temperatures are expected to be higher than average particularly in the northern part of NSW.

Tides

• High tides over 1.8 metres are predicted for 8-13 March 2024, 6-12 April 2024 and 7-12 May which could trigger hatching of *Aedes vigilax*.

Human arboviral disease notifications

Ross River virus

One confirmed and twelve probable cases were notified in the week ending 24 February 2024.

Barmah Forest virus

One confirmed and two probable cases were notified in the week ending 24 February 2024.

Arbovirus detections

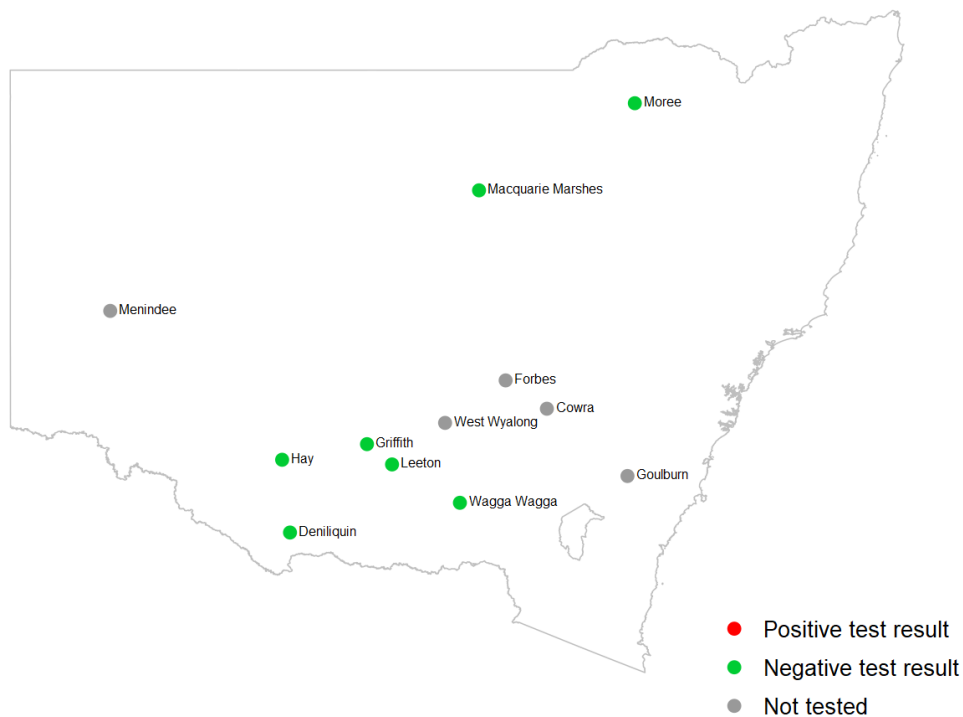
This section details detections of Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Kunjin virus, Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus in the NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring Program.

Sentinel chickens

Chickens are bled for detection of antibodies directed against Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus and Kunjin virus, indicating exposure to these viruses. Test results for the past week are shown in the map below. A positive test result indicates one or more chickens in a flock tested positive for the **first time** to antibodies directed against a particular virus, indicating newly acquired infection.

Sentinel chicken antibody test results for samples collected in the week ending 24 February 2024

There were no arbovirus detections in sentinel chickens for the week ending 24 February 2024.



Positive test results in the 2023-2024 surveillance season.

Date of sample collection	Location	Virus
2023-12-17	*Menindee	Japanese Encephalitis

*The sentinel chicken had only recently arrived in Menindee and is likely to have acquired Japanese encephalitis virus in Cowra prior to arrival in Menindee.

Mosquito isolates

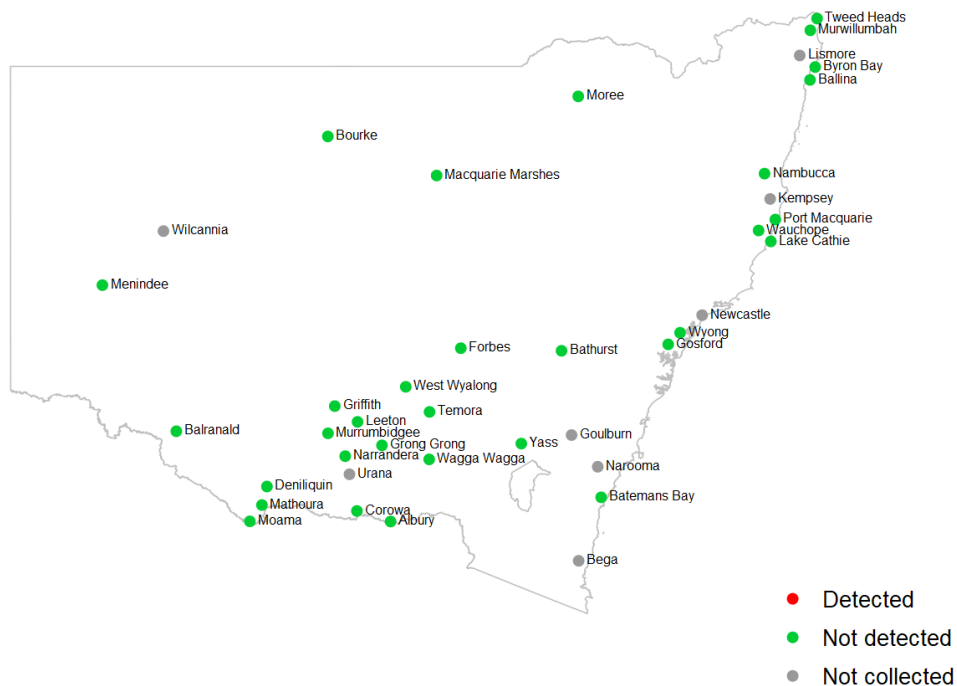
Whole grinds of collected mosquitoes are tested for arbovirus nucleic acids to determine the presence of arboviruses in mosquitoes. Test results for detections of Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Kunjin virus, Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus for the past week are shown in the maps below. Detections of all arboviruses (including Edge Hill virus and Kokobera virus) for the season are detailed in the positive test results for the 2023-2024 surveillance season.

Test results for mosquito trapping sites reported in the week ending 24 February 2024

In the week ending 24 February 2024, Stratford virus was detected in a mosquito sample from Central Coast; Sindbis virus was detected in a sample in Tweed Heads; Kokobera virus was detected in a sample in Griffith; and Edge Hill virus was detected in a sample in the Northern Beaches.

Inland and coastal sites

The map highlights detections of arboviruses that can cause human notifiable conditions, such as Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Kunjin virus, Ross River virus, and Barmah Forest virus. Detections of all arboviruses (including Edge Hill virus, Stratford virus and Kokobera virus) for the season are detailed in the positive test results for the 2023-2024 surveillance season.



Inland and coastal sites - positive test results in the 2023-2024 surveillance season.

Date of sample collection	Location	Virus
2024-01-03	Gosford	Edge Hill
2024-01-16	Gosford	Edge Hill
2024-01-22	Macquarie Marshes	Kokobera
2024-01-23	Newcastle	Edge Hill

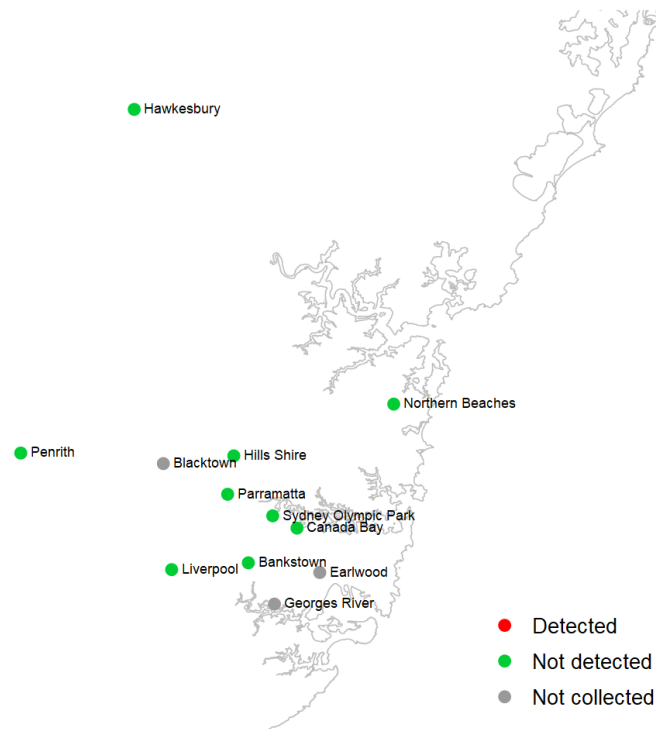
Inland and coastal sites - positive test results in the 2023-2024 surveillance season.

Date of sample collection	Location	Virus
2024-01-29	Tweed	Edge Hill
2024-01-29	Tweed	Ross River
2024-01-29	Temora	Kokobera
2024-01-29	Narrandera	Kokobera
2024-01-30	Forbes	Kokobera
2024-02-04	Narooma	Stratford
2024-02-05	Byron Bay	Ross River
2024-02-06	Batemans Bay	Edge Hill
2024-02-06	Newcastle	Barmah Forest
2024-02-06	Newcastle	Edge Hill
2024-02-06	Newcastle	Stratford
2024-02-07	Central Coast	Edge Hill
2024-02-07	Central Coast	Stratford
2024-02-12	Byron Bay	Ross River
2024-02-12	Ballina	Ross River
2024-02-12	Lake Cathie	Edge Hill
2024-02-12	Newcastle	Edge Hill
2024-02-12	Newcastle	Stratford
2024-02-19	Tweed	Sindbis
2024-02-19	Griffith	Kokobera
2024-02-22	Central Coast	Stratford

Please note: Human cases of Edge Hill virus, Stratford virus or Kokobera virus have rarely been reported. Infection may present as a mild self-limiting febrile illness with body aches.

Sydney sites

The map highlights detections of arboviruses that can cause human notifiable conditions, such as Murray Valley encephalitis virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, Kunjin virus, Ross River virus, and Barmah Forest virus. Detections of all arboviruses (including Edge Hill virus, Stratford virus and Kokobera virus) for the season are detailed in the positive test results for the 2023-2024 surveillance season.



Sydney - positive test results in the 2023-2024 surveillance season.

Date of sample collection	Location	Virus
2024-01-29	Sydney Olympic Park	Edge Hill
2024-01-29	Northern Beaches	Edge Hill
2024-01-30	Bankstown	Edge Hill
2024-01-30	Georges River	Edge Hill
2024-02-05	Sydney Olympic Park	Edge Hill
2024-02-05	Sydney Olympic Park	Stratford
2024-02-06	Parramatta	Edge Hill
2024-02-06	Hawkesbury	Stratford
2024-02-07	Georges River	Edge Hill
2024-02-07	Georges River	Stratford
2024-02-12	Bankstown	Stratford
2024-02-20	Northern Beaches	Edge Hill

Mosquito abundance

This section details counts of mosquitoes in the NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring Program. Each location represents the count average for all trapping sites at that location for the most recent week that collections were provided prior to preparation of this report.

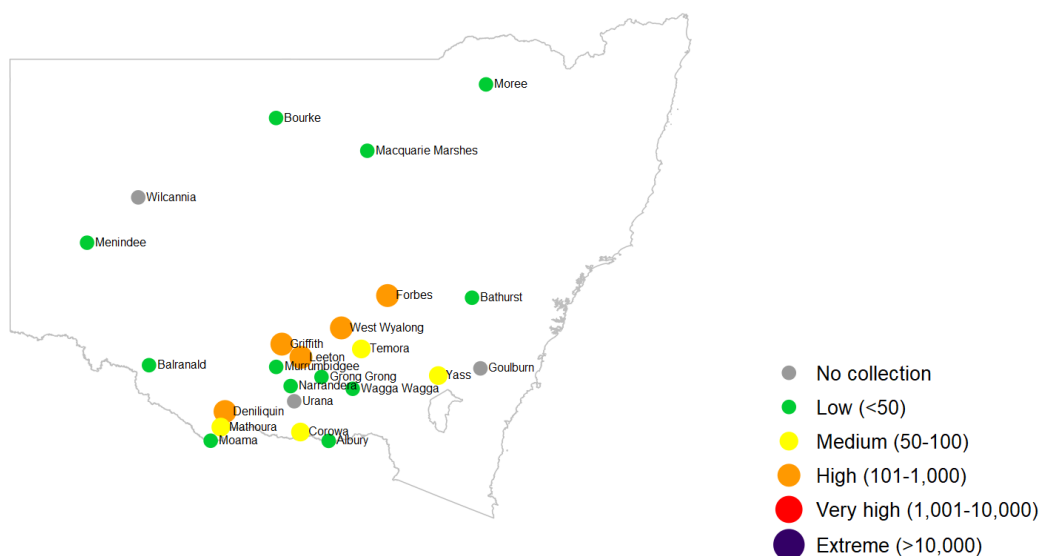
Culex annulirostris and *Aedes vigilax* are vectors of interest for Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus, *Culex annulirostris* is also a vector for Japanese encephalitis virus.

Mosquito counts

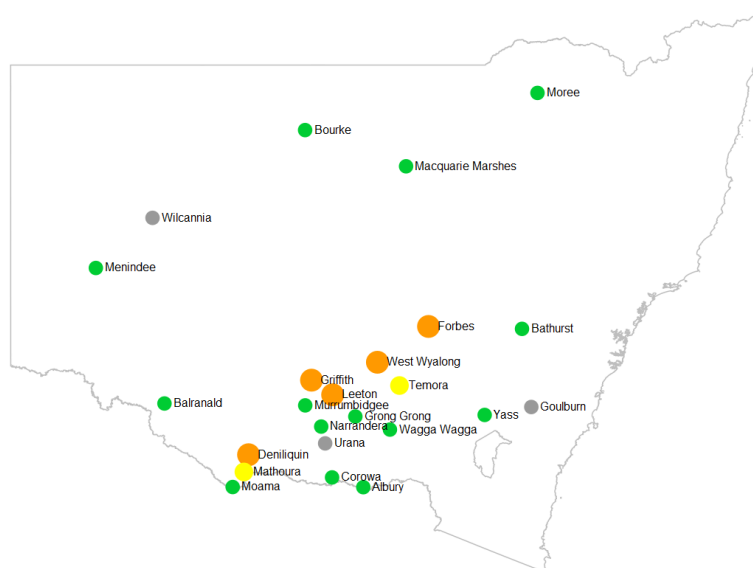
Mosquito counts (average per trap per location) for mosquito trapping sites reported in the week ending 24 February 2024

Inland sites

Total mosquito counts

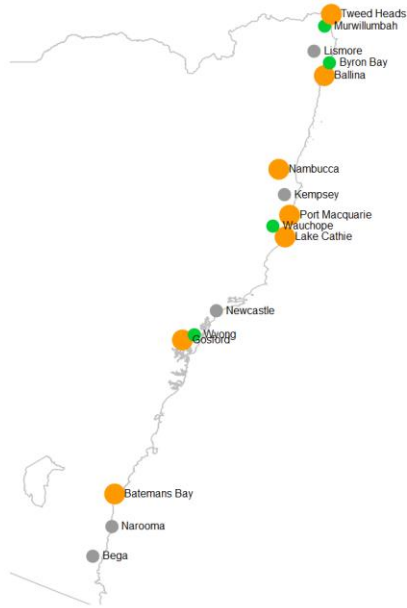


Culex annulirostris counts



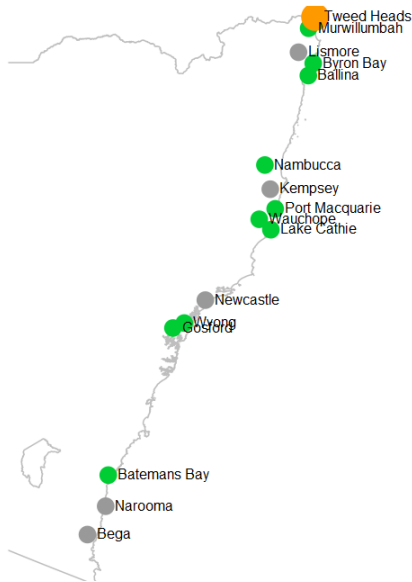
Coastal sites

Total mosquito counts

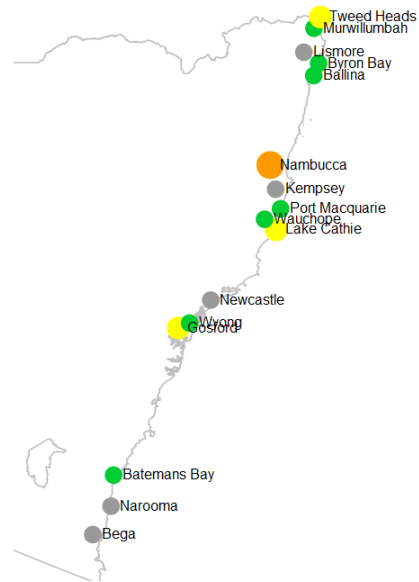


- No collection
- Low (<50)
- Medium (50-100)
- High (101-1,000)
- Very high (1,001-10,000)
- Extreme (>10,000)

Culex annulirostris counts

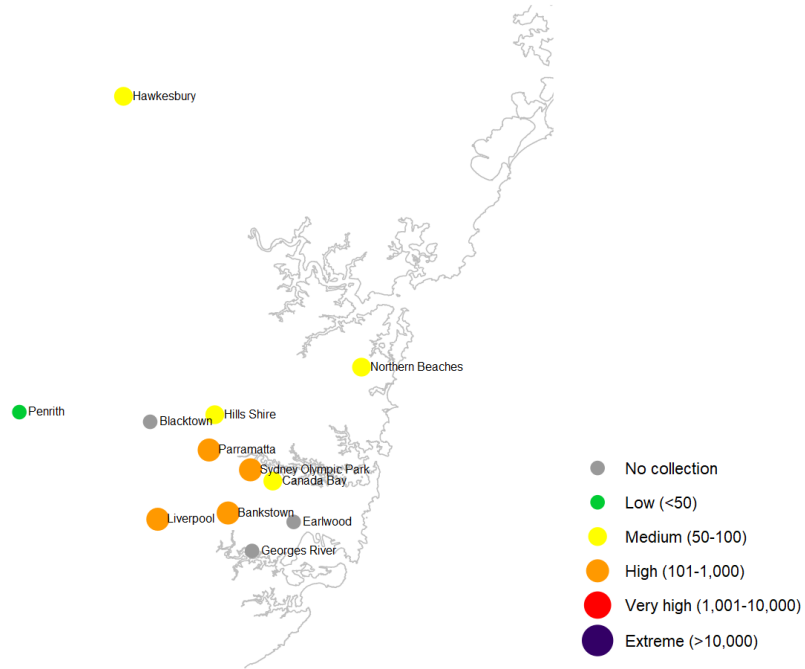


Aedes vigilax counts

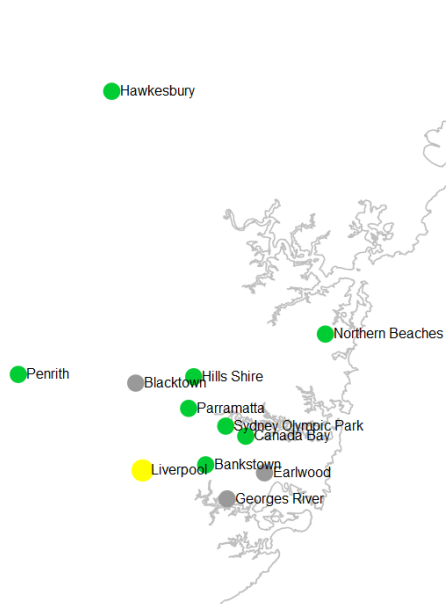


Sydney sites

Total mosquito counts



Culex annulirostris counts



Aedes vigilax counts



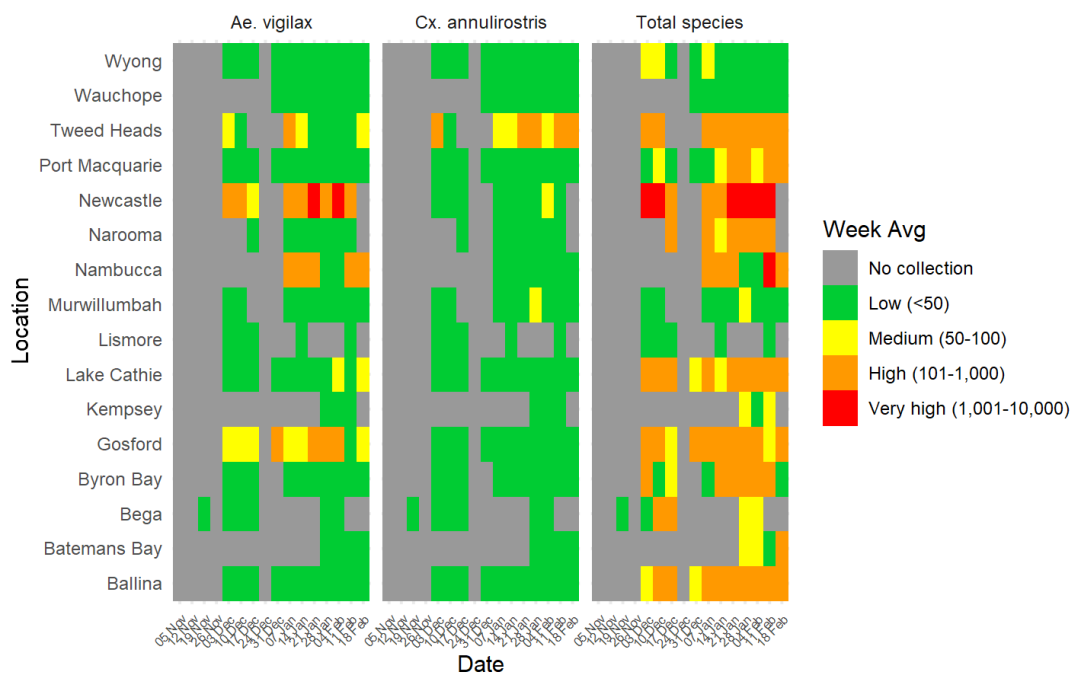
Mosquito abundance results for the 2023-2024 season

season

This section shows all mosquito trapping results by location and species type to date for the current arbovirus season.

Cumulative mosquito abundance tables

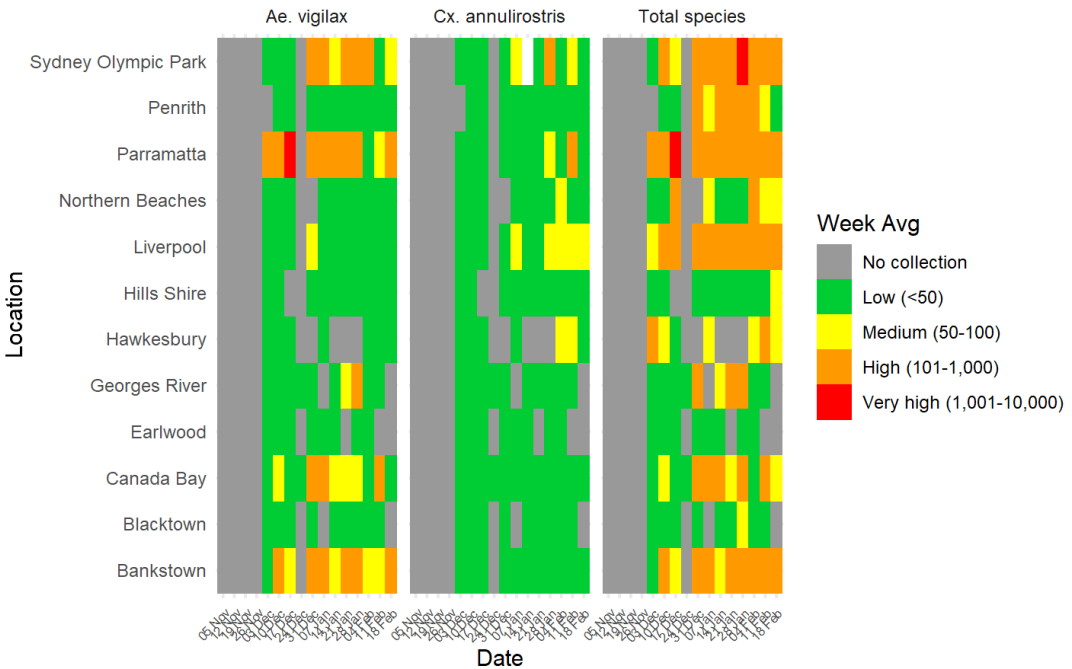
Number of mosquitoes trapped along the coast (weekly average)



Number of mosquitoes trapped inland (weekly average)



Number of mosquitoes trapped in Sydney (weekly average)



Environmental conditions

Mosquitoes require water to breed. Rainfall and tides (for the salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes vigilax*) are important contributing factors for proliferation of mosquito numbers. Unseasonably warm weather can also contribute to higher mosquito numbers.

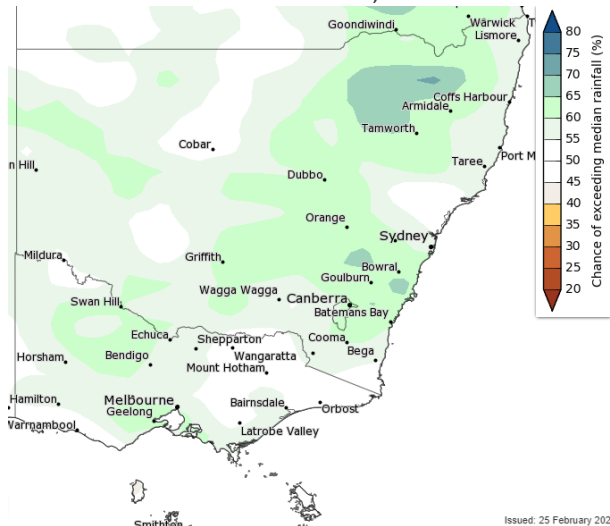
Rainfall

In the week ending 24 February 2024, rainfall was lower than average across the western region of NSW, and average or higher than average in the eastern part of NSW. In January, rainfall was slightly above average across most parts of NSW with the Northern NSW region experiencing particularly high levels of rainfall.

Upcoming week's rainfall and temperature outlook

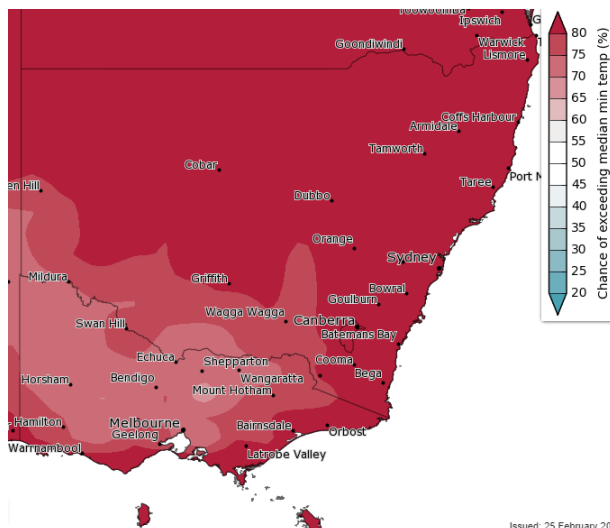
Average rainfall is expected across most of NSW in the coming week. Higher than average rainfall is expected in Hunter New England, Illawarra Shoalhaven and Southern NSW regions of NSW.

Rainfall 1 March to 7 March, 2024



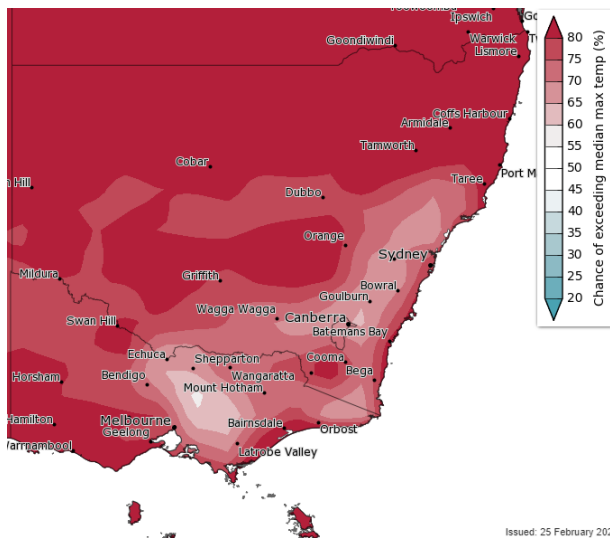
Minimum temperature 1 March to 7 March, 2024

In the upcoming week, minimum temperatures are expected to be higher than average across NSW.



Maximum temperature 1 March to 7 March, 2024

In the upcoming week, maximum temperatures are forecast to be higher than average across NSW, particularly along the northern part of NSW.



Tides

Tidal information is relevant for the prediction of the activity of the salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes vigilax*. Typically for NSW, high tides of over 1.8 m, as measured at Sydney, can induce hatching of *Aedes vigilax* larvae. Predicted tide heights can provide some indication of when this is likely to occur.

Dates of predicted high tides of over 1.8 m at Sydney (Fort Denison)

- 8-13 March 2024
- 6-12 April 2024
- 7-12 May

Source: [Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology](#). Note: Measured tides at Sydney Port Jackson for the current week are available from the NSW Government, [Manly Hydraulics Laboratory](#).

Human arboviral disease notifications

Under the *NSW Public Health Act 2010*, human arboviral infections are notifiable in NSW.

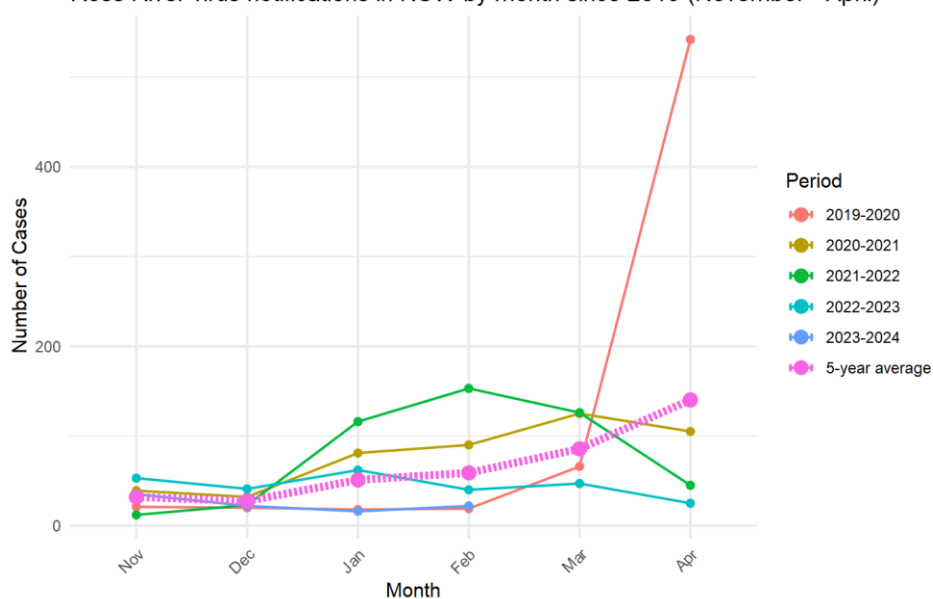
Recent notifications of Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus infections in humans (by date of case report received)

Notifications of Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus infections, by month of disease onset (the earlier of patient-reported onset or specimen collection date), are available online at the [NSW Health website - infectious diseases data](#).

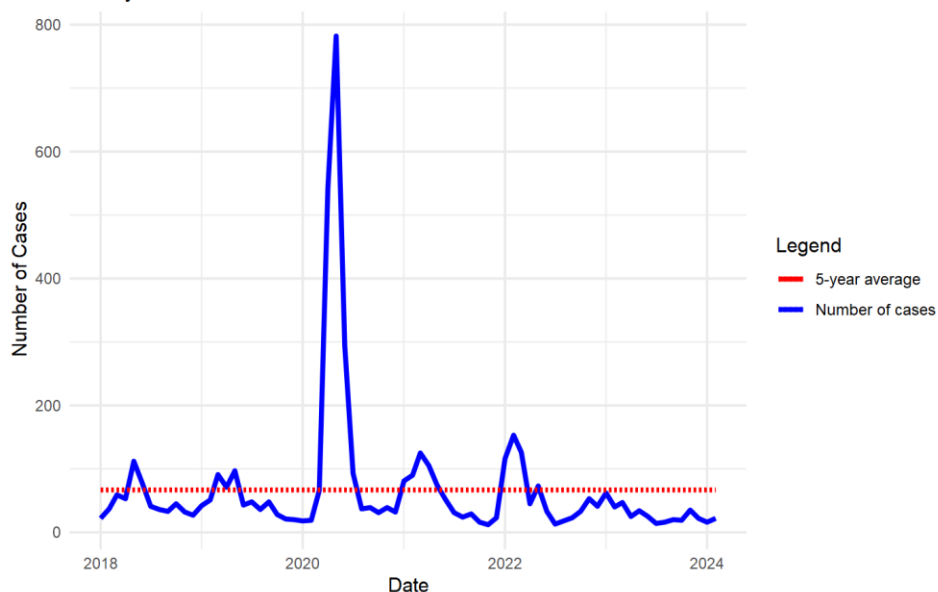
The following figures show notifications for the current NSW Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Monitoring season (2023-2024), and the same period in the previous four years.

Ross River virus

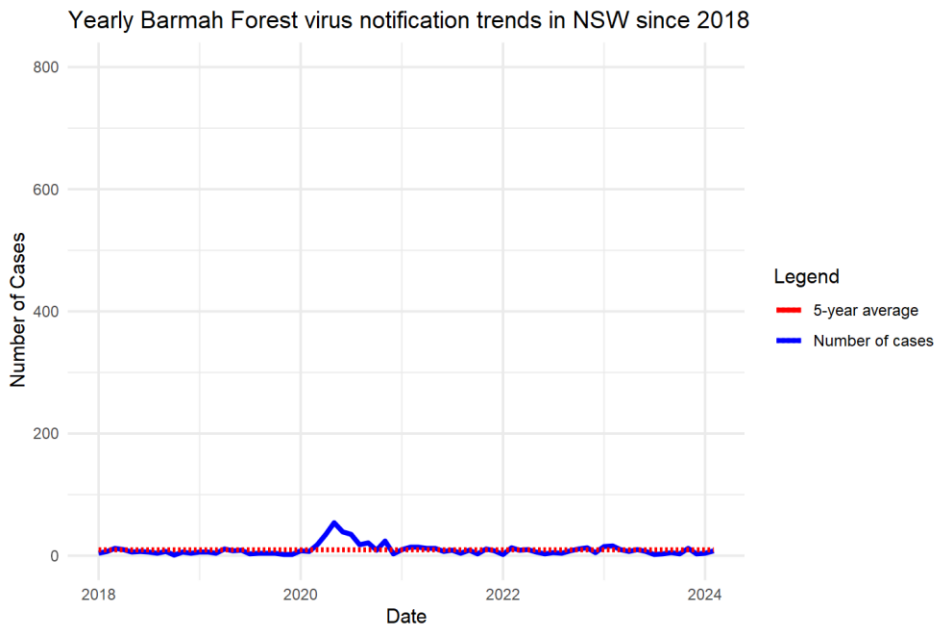
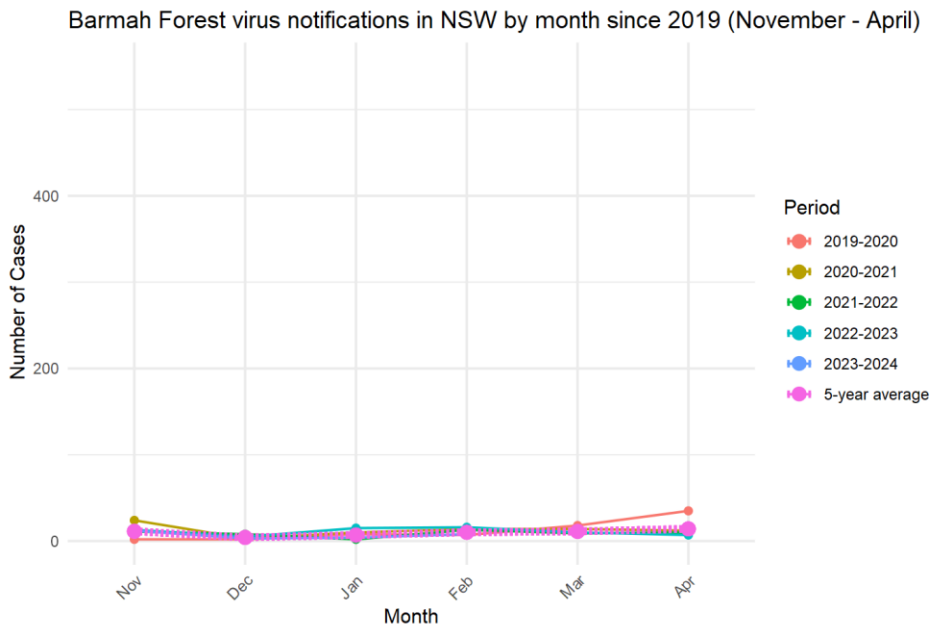
Ross River virus notifications in NSW by month since 2019 (November - April)



Yearly Ross River virus notification trends in NSW since 2018



Barmah Forest virus



Note: Presented human cases include both confirmed and probable cases.