

# FLYING FOXES AND RAINWATER TANKS

Flying foxes are mobile, nocturnal animals, flying up to thirty kilometres at night in order to forage for nectar and blossoms. Residents have expressed concerns about potential faecal contamination of rainwater tanks as flying foxes fly overhead.

Faecal contamination from wildlife is a known risk not just associated with flying foxes, but also birds, possums, and other animals. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure rainwater collected is treated to a healthy standard prior to consumption. To minimise the risk of faecal bacteria and other microorganisms contaminating your rainwater tank, here are some simple methods you can use.

- Install a 'first flush' device that will divert the first dirty water flow away from the tank;
- Clear and trim vegetation (e.g. overhanging tree branches) away from awnings, gutters, and tanks to reduce accessibility from wildlife;
- Install a <1mm screen to filter material entering the tank;
- Regularly flush your tank to 'de-sludge' and remove accumulated debris;
- Disinfect your tank (e.g. add 40ml of sodium hypochlorite per 1KL of water);
- Disinfect water prior to use through filtration and boiling;



- Regularly inspect the tank for signs of animal access.

Regular maintenance and care of your home infrastructure will assist you in having healthy and safe source of rainwater.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the installation and use of rainwater tanks, contact Isaac Regional Council on **1300 ISAACS** (1300 472 227) or via email at [records@isaac.qld.gov.au](mailto:records@isaac.qld.gov.au).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU** | **1300 ISAACS** (1300 472 227)

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