

# Cairns Field Trial Update

## September 2013



**With the continued support of residents our field trials in Machans Beach, Babinda and central Cairns sites are proceeding well.**

**Machans Beach and Babinda:** After two months of releasing *Wolbachia* mosquitoes, our monitoring result tells us that **86%** of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Machans Beach carried *Wolbachia*; and **77%** in Babinda. While the result in Babinda is slightly down from last month's result (79%), some fluctuation is typical and we expect to see this number increase again over coming weeks.

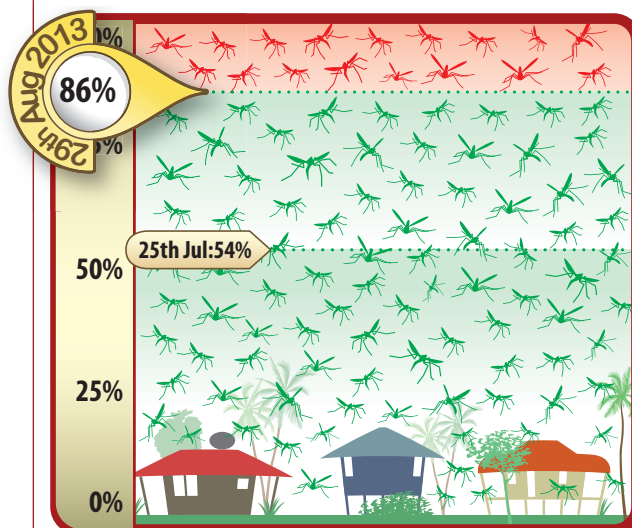
Overall these results are very encouraging. However, as this is our first dry-season field trial and there are fewer mosquitoes around compared to our previous wet-season releases, we may see some differences in how long it may take for *Wolbachia* to establish in the local mosquito population.

**Central Cairns:** Monitoring is ongoing in areas of Whitfield, Edge Hill, Parramatta Park and Westcourt. The latest results are positive with *Wolbachia* levels reaching **over 80%** in all sites, four months after the last *Wolbachia* mosquitoes were released. However, conclusive results are not expected until the beginning of the next wet season when mosquito populations increase.

We will continue our mosquito monitoring and update you regularly on the results. If you have any questions about the field trial, call us on **1800 811 054** (free call from a landline). To receive email updates about our progress, email [cairns@eliminatedengue.com](mailto:cairns@eliminatedengue.com).

**What is a field trial?** A field trial involves releasing *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes that carry *Wolbachia*, a natural bacterium that reduces the ability of the mosquito to transmit dengue between people. These mosquitoes then breed with wild mosquitoes and pass on *Wolbachia* to their offspring. Before, during and after the release period we monitor the mosquitoes through a network of traps to determine if they carry *Wolbachia*. **Our goal** is for the majority of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in our trial sites to carry *Wolbachia*, which we expect will reduce local dengue transmission.

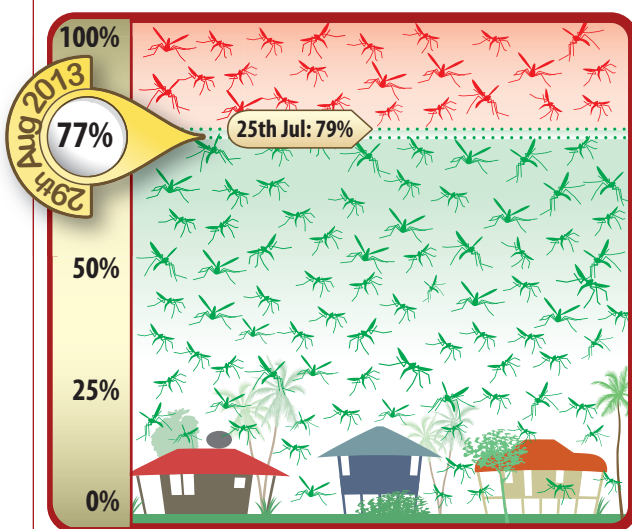
### Machans Beach



Mosquitoes without *Wolbachia*      Mosquitoes with *Wolbachia*

**86% of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes collected in Machans Beach on 29 August carried *Wolbachia***

### Babinda



Mosquitoes without *Wolbachia*      Mosquitoes with *Wolbachia*

**77% of *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes collected in Babinda on 29 August carried *Wolbachia***