Tilapia not detected in Cooby Creek

Biosecurity Queensland has not found any evidence of the invasive pest fish species tilapia in Cooby Creek, downstream of Cooby Dam, north of Toowoomba.

Since the initial report was made in March 2022, a range of survey techniques have been deployed including electrofishing, eDNA sampling and setting fyke nets.

There has been no indication, from any of these techniques, that tilapia are present in Cooby Creek and by extension, the Murray-Darling Basin.

This news is encouraging as tilapia would have significant impacts on a range of native species, and lead to reduced water quality in this system if established.

Biosecurity Queensland will continue to monitor Cooby Creek and downstream waterways over the coming months in partnership with researchers who are active in the catchment.

Biosecurity Queensland would like to thank the officers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Department of Environment and Science, Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water, Toowoomba Regional Council and representatives from the local fish stocking group for their assistance in this investigation.
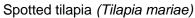
Tilapia were introduced into Australia in the 1970s as ornamental fish and are now a major threat to Australia's native biodiversity. Tilapia are now widespread on the east coast of Queensland. Most new infestations are caused by people moving live fish between catchments.

Tilapia are restricted matter under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. This means you cannot keep, feed, give away, sell, or release tilapia into the environment without a permit.

If you see or catch tilapia outside of their known distribution, take a photo and report it online or phone Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23

More information on tilapia.

Spotted tilapia *(Tilapia mariae)*

Mozambique tilapia *(Oreochromis mossambicus)*

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