



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MANAGING FLYING FOXES IN QUEENSLAND

CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

In 2013, the Queensland State Government introduced a new framework which:

- Allows private citizens and councils to carry out basic maintenance activities within a roost without a permit under a code of practice
- Gives local government the authority (as-of-right) to manage roosts within prescribed areas called Urban Flying-fox Management Areas (UFFMA) under a code of practice
- Maintains requirement for private citizens and councils (outside of a UFFMA) to seek approval to manage roosts (Flying-fox roost management permit)

IMPACTS OF THE CHANGES

Whilst the intention was to improve LG ability to respond without the need for a permit, there have been unintended results:

- Increase in council expenditure
- Increase in dispersals
- Increased community angst and response to this issue
- Increased community expectations that councils can and should act to ‘control’ flying-foxes

LG NOTIFICATIONS FOR PROPOSED AS-OF-RIGHT ACTIVITIES

Year	Number of councils	Number of roosts	Number of notifications
2013	2	2	2
2014	19	36	61
2015	14	19	30
2016	24	41	149
2017	25	39	115

LGAQ ACTIVITIES

- Flying fox forums
- Dedicated webpages
- Guide to Best Practice Flying fox management
- Preferred supplier panel



The proper and humane management of Queensland's many flying-fox colonies has long been a contentious issue for local government and councils. These issues often relate to fly-baiting and management, approval of Queensland-based signed details of a Scheme of local level events and how which involves multiple stakeholders.

The accompanying two-part forum, online guide and management plan has been created in partnership between the local government of Queensland and industry in order to provide Queensland councils with clear and positive information developed to assist in decision making and management of flying fox colonies.

While the new government's proposed new approach to flying-fox management will allow a local council or local government authority to make flying-fox management decisions for their local council, it will not apply to any other state or territory. It is important to note that councils are not obligated to take any action based on flying-fox colonies unless they so deem it in their interests.

The recent proposed changes have no impact on the responsibility of councils to respond to flying fox issues in their jurisdictions. This is an important basis which often local council's forward with warnings and advice regarding flying foxes to their primary sources.

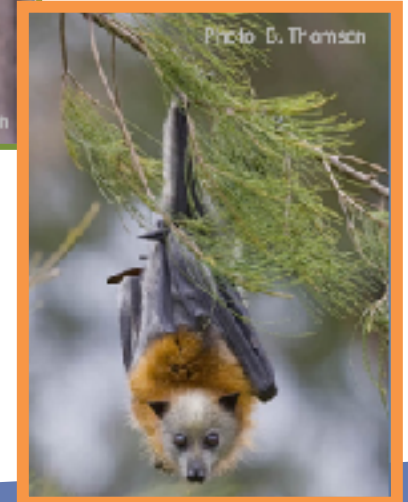
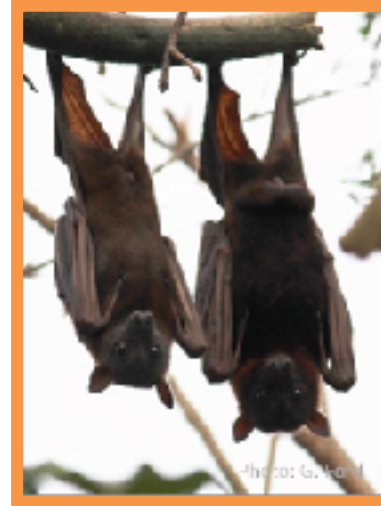
Local council responses to flying-fox management issues will be reviewed with a range of considerations, including, animal and public safety, issues of management or community expectations. The guide aims to provide a clear picture of the options available to councils, and suggested methods of communicating and responding to community concern using the information.

The information in this guide is supported by a newly established dedicated online resource for LGAQ members councils to access relevant material from a single point. It includes new media coverage, frequently asked questions and resources shared by local councils.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

- Initial response was to increase dispersals and immediately respond to community concerns
- However, a number of more strategic responses are now occurring at a local level in lieu of state-wide coordination including:
 - Collaborative responses
 - Community engagement
 - Research and applying innovative techniques



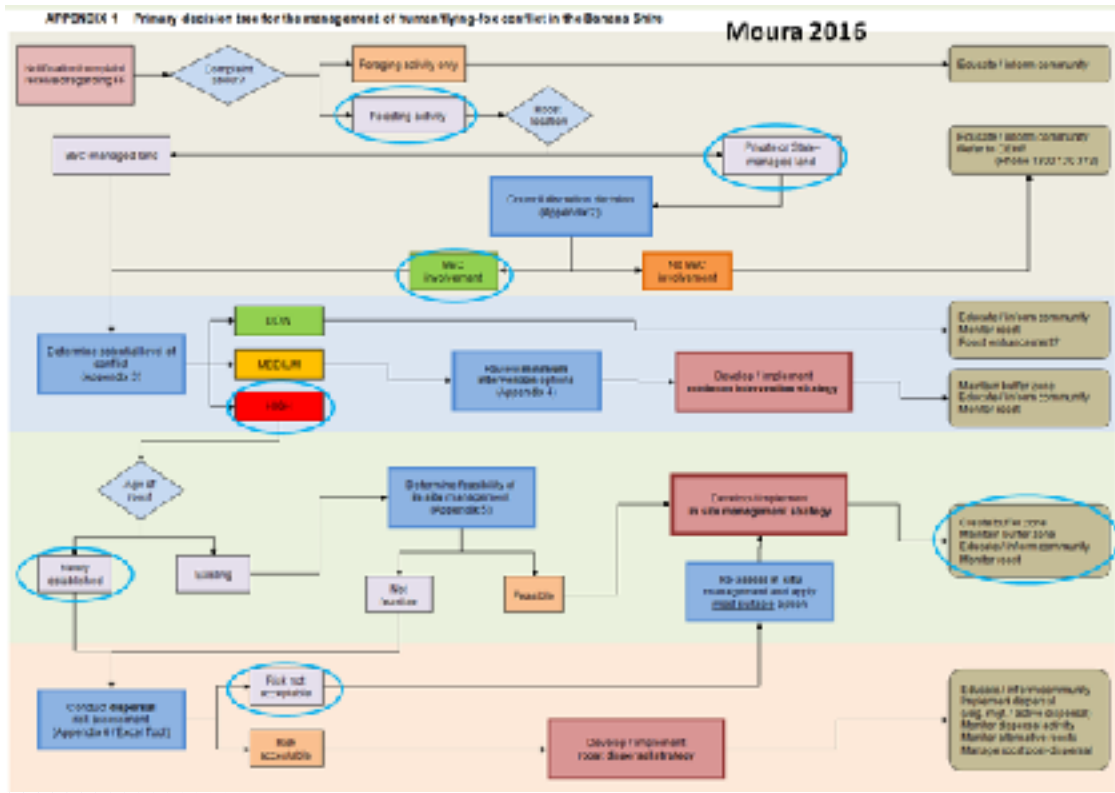
BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL - COLLABORATION



Books available for purchase from Moura Kindy \$20 ea - mourakindy@bigpond.com or Moura Kindy Facebook page

- Community meetings in collaboration with BSC, QH, DAF, & DES to provide information and give opportunity to ask questions, feedback, etc. provide resources, etc.
- Information leaflets regularly circulated with updates to residents in the vicinity of the roost
- Roost monitoring
- In-kind support to kindy – yard maintenance at kindy, moving kindy to new location for a term, sinks to wash hands, shade shelters for play, fencing, etc. promotion of book “the day the bats came to kindy” written and illustrated by the kindy class affected
- Regular communication with affected stakeholders (email, phone calls, face to face)

BANANA SHIRE COUNCIL - COLLABORATION



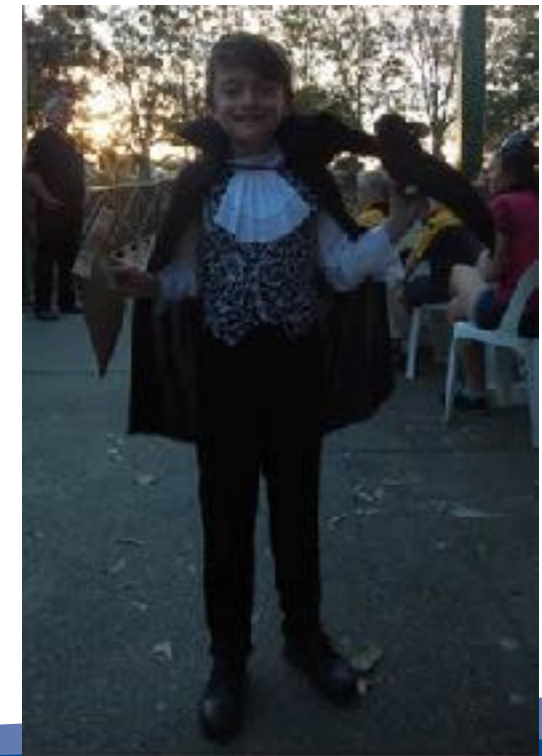
These events also prompted BSC to develop

- Statement of Management Intent
- Flying Fox Management Plan & Roosting Activity toolkit
- Vaccination program for BSC employees working with Flying foxes

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Cultivating Community Connectivity through education



LOGAN CITY COUNCIL – SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Logan City Council
 9 October 2015 at 11:30 am

Go Batty this Halloween! Long ago on Halloween, people would gather around bonfires and ward off evil spirits. Attracted to the fire light were many small insects, and these attracted noctuids. Seeing bats fly in and out of the freighth meant they became a feature of Halloween lore.

Find out things you never knew about Australian bats and watch them fly out for their evening feed. With free kids activities and BBQ - there's even a prize for best Batty dressed!

Contact us on 1417 4471 or environment@logan.qld.gov.au to book your spot! For more event information visit: <http://ow.ly/202k> #CityOfLogan



Logan City Council
 Published by "Council of Families" · Just now · 48

Heat stress and berry tans. Another hot day has been forecast across the City of Logan for today and tomorrow.

While we often have the luxury of air-conditioning to keep us cool, please remember our busy friends and native wildlife. Temperatures around 38 degrees can lead to heat stress and even death from dehydration for many animals, including flying-foxes. Make sure pets have a place to rest in the shade with good ventilation. Keep an eye out for heat stress warning signs and if any animals are in distress or injured call 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 626). For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/1346J7>




Logan City Council
 Published by Treena Lee Dawkins · 21 January 15 at 10:45am · 48

With summer well and truly here, the migratory little red flying foxes have returned to holiday briefly in Logan.

Unlike the black and grey-headed flying foxes, "little reds" are a bit more talkative and noisy and generally like to hang out in larger numbers, similar to a really good party! Whilst they can be a bit more disruptive, wildlife experts have advised they will move on in the coming weeks to head back up north and give birth to their young.

It can be pretty spectacular to watch in the evening their fly out in search for food or their next stopping point on their way home. If you'd like to know more, visit <http://bit.ly/2036eVJ>



111,612 people reached

547 Likes · 37 Comments · 857 Shares

Event Post

With summer a hot shimmering people in the heat, tough and heavy other reactions in these posts. The heat will only happen in a few summer. If someone needs, you'll see it below.

111,612 People Reached

8,601 Reactions, Comments & Shares

7,145 Likes	547 On Post	61,788 On Shares
17 Love	1 On Post	16 On Shares
366 Comments	40 On Post	326 On Shares
873 Shares	887 On Post	16 On Shares

5,751 Post Clicks

1,105 Photo Views	65 Link Clicks	4,501 Other Clicks
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Logan City Council
 21 Jan · 2k

Be flying fox aware

There has been an increase in sick and injured flying foxes possibly due to current food shortages throughout QLD.

If you see a sick, injured or dead flying fox please do not approach the animal, rather ring the RSPCA 1300 ANIMAL or Bat Rescue Queensland on 0488 228 134. ... See More



2,871 people reached

Event Post



LEAF - Logan Eco Action Festival
 19th Jan 2015 · 107/217 · 48

With Batman, Ben and Bob: QLD at Logan Eco Action Festival

1 Comment

Like Comment Share

Most relevant

Shawn Ben (ps://www.facebook.com/Batman-Shawn) · Like · Reply · 21h

With a comment · 2h

LOGAN CITY COUNCIL – EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES

What bat is that?

There are more than 100 species of bats living in Australia. They are mammals that sleep in a group called a colony. They have wings and a long tail.


Did you know?
 They are mammals, not birds. They have fur and give birth to live young. They are also nocturnal, meaning they are active at night.

They are also very important for the environment. They eat insects and help control their numbers. They also help pollinate some plants.

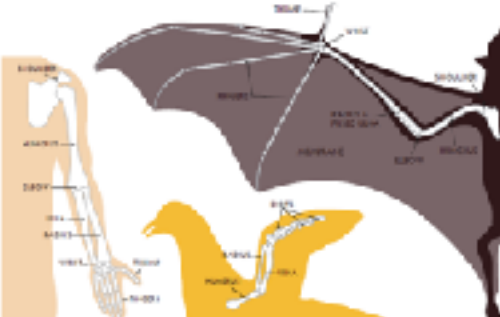
We can track flying-foxes for health and disease control. For use by other animals, these are not a problem.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? NO, it's a bat!

They are NOT birds!
 They are mammals. They have fur and give birth to live young. They are also nocturnal, meaning they are active at night.



They also have a unique feature: they have a membrane called a wing that stretches between their front and back limbs. This membrane is called a wing and is made of skin. It is not a feather like a bird's.



The diagram shows the bat's wing structure, including the wing membrane, wing bones, and the body. It also shows a comparison with a bird's wing structure.

The night shift/ Seeing in the dark

Do you know?
 Flying-foxes have a special ability called echolocation. They use sound waves to navigate and find food in the dark.



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Important Information Little Red Flying-foxes Fact Sheet




This fact sheet provides detailed information about Little Red Flying-foxes, including their appearance, behavior, and conservation status.

LOOK OUT! LOCK OUT! THERE ARE FLYING-FOXES ABOUT!

Flying-foxes are nocturnal animals that are active at night. They are important for the environment and can be a nuisance if they roost in large numbers.

How to recognize them:
 - They are large mammals with a long tail.
 - They have a distinctive orange-brown color.

Grey-headed Flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)



How to recognize Grey-headed bats:
 - They are large mammals with a long tail.
 - They have a distinctive grey head and orange-brown body.

Where do Grey-headed bats occur?
 - They are found in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.

Living with Bats

Your Questions Answered



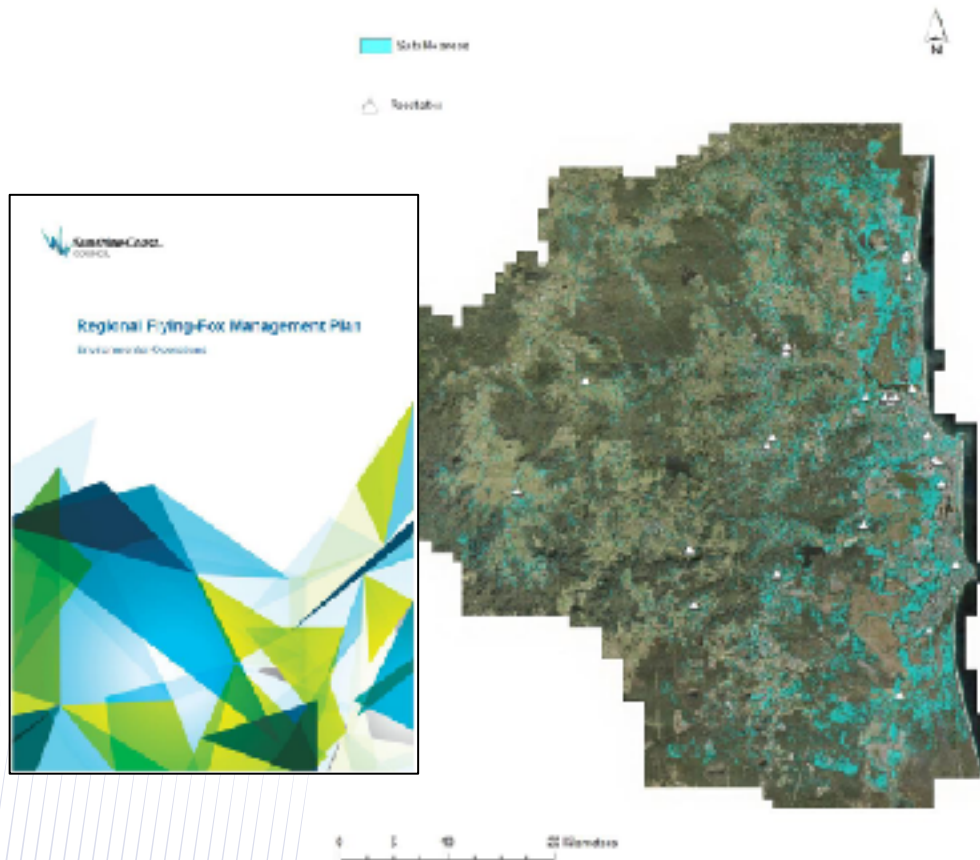
This section addresses common questions about living with bats, such as how to prevent them from roosting in your home and how to safely remove them.

Flying-Foxes and your Health

What to do if you're flying-foxes are around your house?
 - Seal up your house to prevent them from entering.
 - Use exclusion techniques to remove them safely.

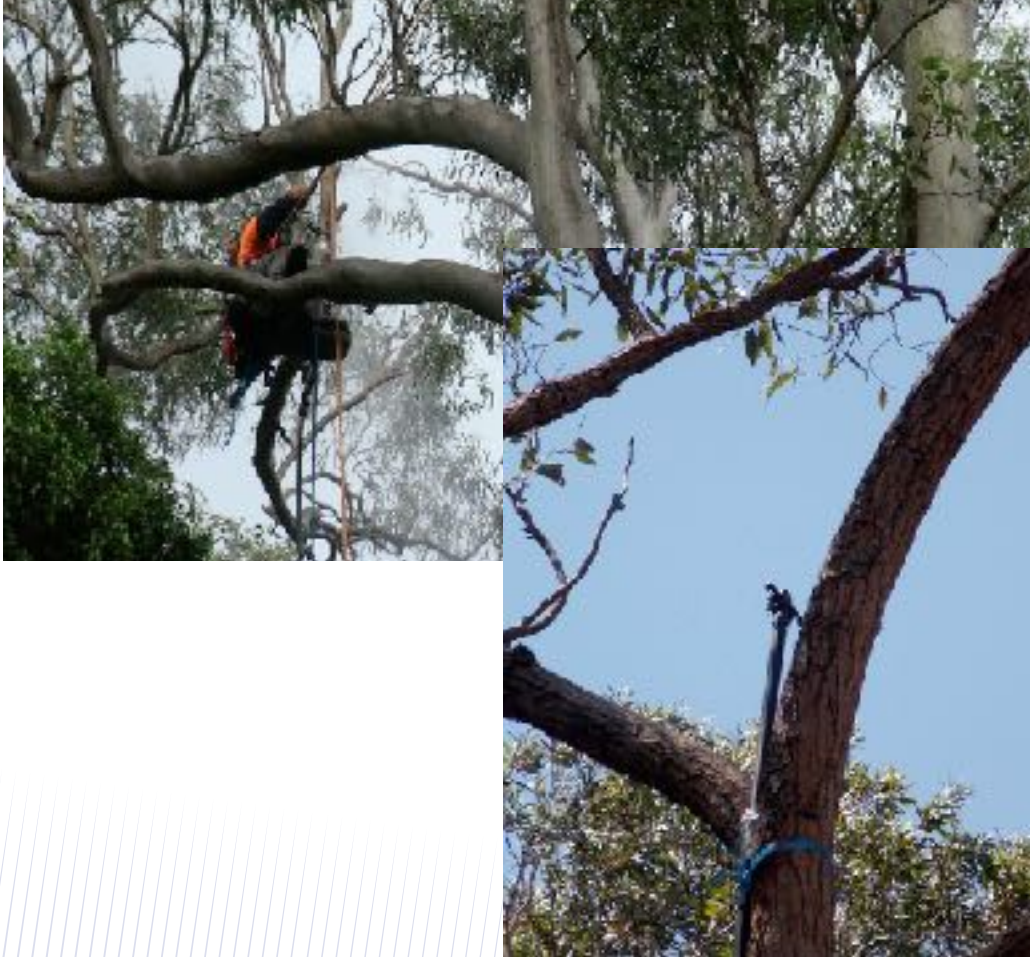
What's that noise?
 - Flying-foxes can make a variety of sounds, including echolocation calls and roosting sounds.

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL – RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES



- Development of Regional Flying Fox Management Plan
- Plan includes innovative techniques and research
- Roost management has incorporated innovative techniques
 - Canopy mounted sprinkler system, suggested by Dr Les Hall
- Research aimed at encouraging FF out of the urban footprint
 - QUT suitable habitat and potential conflict mapping

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL – RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES



CANOPY MOUNTED SPRINKLER SYSTEM

- Used to extend exclusion buffer by ‘nudging’ footprint
 - Empowers the residents with a method that can be used as needed
- Used in conjunction with vegetation management
- Has been largely effective long term

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL – RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES




- SCC engaged QUT
- Produced a species distribution model for BFF, GHFF and LRFF
- Developed a potential conflict model
- Key findings:
- Distribution to food is not as high an influence as previously thought
- Identified 7 primary factors influencing site selection:
- Suitable roosting habitat (270km²) = 12% of total SCC area
- High conflict areas (72km²) = 27% of total suitable habitat!

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL – RESEARCH AND INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES

This work will be used to:

- Protect and regenerate important roost habitats
- Assess future land use strategies that could impact flying foxes and humans
- Highlight human-bat contact areas and their degree of conflict for future planning and management.

Major focus is to identify suitable low-conflict areas outside the urban footprint and either establish, rehab or regenerate AND protect them, to encourage FF into these areas, rather than reactively forcing them out of less suitable areas.



LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions 2017

2017

LGAQ lobby to provide:

1. Statewide management recognising that flying foxes travel large distances across multiple local government boundaries;
2. Funding to support the management of flying fox colonies and dispersal activities.

LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions 2018

LGAQ lobby for:

1. a national and state unified and community-minded approach to the solution and management of flying foxes.
2. coordinate state-wide flying fox research to determine the preferred habitat of black and grey headed flying foxes and their movement patterns and use the findings to:
 - i) analyse the potential increase in flying fox colonies in urban areas and their associated impacts
 - ii) establish options to reduce the likelihood of additional flying fox colonies in urban areas
 - iii) develop an on ground program for the successful relocation of colonies away from affected urban areas.

MISSING PIECES



Issue	Solution
Lack of a national strategy/approach for flying fox management	Adoption of the recommendations of the inquiry into flying-fox management in the Eastern States
Councils bearing the financial burden of managing high conflict roost sites	Funding program for councils to support future planning and implementation of these plans
Loss of centralised knowledge – no overarching data to examine the impacts of locally managed roosts and the overall impacts to the species	Data collection that shows roost management activity and the impact of that activity in resolving community conflict and conservation efforts
Need a greater understanding of flying fox habitat to provide options for habitat development	Applied Research such as that proposed in 2018 annual conference motion
Support for and regular communication with local government officers from the State Government – need a framework	Regular forum for engagement between local government and state government including training
Councils developing their own management plans, decision support tools and education/engagement pieces at a local level – this is both costly and inefficient	Development of planning and engagement tools provided at a state/national level to improve coordination and reduce costs
Current codes restrict timely action and do not provide a large range of options to respond to flying foxes	Review of the current codes