

Australasian Bat Society Flying-fox Expert Group Update

flying-fox@ausbats.org.au



About

The FFEG is a primary source of reliable, accurate information on Australian flying-foxes. The FFEG comprises flying-fox specialists representing research, advocacy, government, industry, education and carer networks. The FFEG encourages a scientific and sustainable approach to flying-fox management and conservation in Australasia.

Formed in 2014 as a subcommittee by the Australasian Bat Society (ABS) Executive to assist with:

- engaging in public debate
- issues concerning flying-foxes
- ensuring the ABS' position is defensible, unassailable, and based on published science and expert advice.

About

Conveners: Maree Treadwell Kerr and Jess Bracks. Support and facilitate contact between members, the ABS community and other interested parties, and to drive a collaborative approach to achieving FFEG actions.

Vice-President: Dr Monika Rhodes. Responsible for information flow between the FFEG Conveners and members of the Executive, as well as coordinating the FFEG Conveners.

Advisors: Dr Justin Welbergen (ABS President), Dr Tania Bishop, Dr Carol Booth, Dr Peggy Eby, Jennifer Davis, Nick Edwards, Dr Les Hall, Prof Stuart Parsons, Jo Towsey, Dr David Westcott, Trish Wimberley, Dr Merlin Tuttle (Honorary member).

General members: Amanda Lo Cascio, Jess Mitchell, Dr Martin Cohen, Janine Davies, Jan Davey, Naomi Downey, Caroline Greco, Una Greco, Barbie Lindsey, Jenny Maclean, Debra Melville, Sue Morris, Beth Noel, Lucy Norman, Tim Pearson, Glenda Pym, Dr Hugh Spencer, Narawan Williams, Dr Andrew Breed, Judith Hopper, Imelda Jennings, Sarah Curran.

The FFEG Conveners can be contacted at flying-fox@ausbats.org.au.

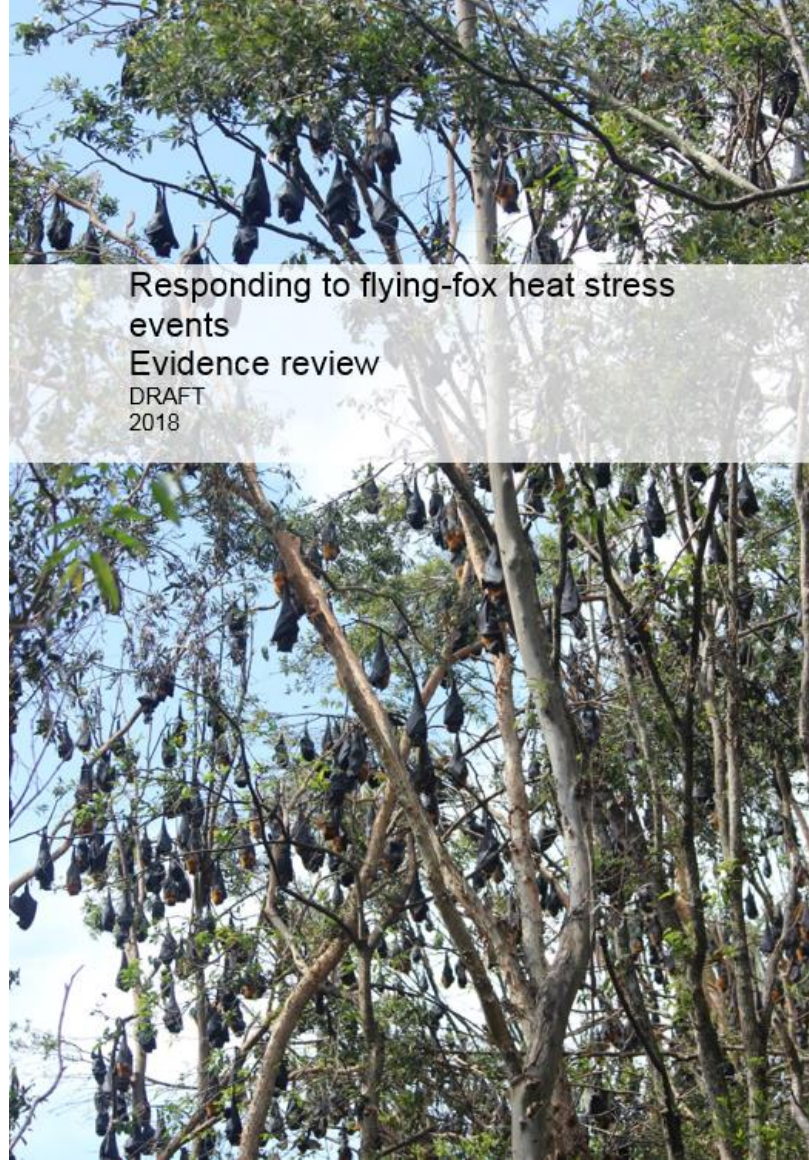
FFEG update

- Involvement in the 2017 EIANZ National Flying-fox Forum



FFEG update

- Heat Stress Review




FFEG update

- Consulting with different governments and representing at relevant forums
- Island flying-fox




FFEG update

- Submissions

 Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy


**Draft Recovery Plan for the
Grey-headed Flying-fox
*Pteropus poliocephalus***



January 2017

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Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp Management Actions 2018


New South Wales

**Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp
Management Actions 2018**
under the
Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017

I, Gabrielle Upton, the Minister for the Environment, in pursuance of clause 2.9 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*, do, by this Order, make the following Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp Management Actions.

Dated this day of 2018.

GABRIELLE UPTON, MP
Minister for the Environment

Explanatory note
This Order is made under clause 2.9 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulation 2017*.
The object of this Order is to make the Code of Practice Authorising Flying-fox Camp Management Actions.


FFEG update

THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic fair

Arts + Culture Business + Economy Cities Education **Environment + Energy** FactCheck Health + Medicine Politics + Society Science + Technology

Search analysis, research, academics...



Why we shouldn't be so quick to demonise bats

December 22, 2017 6:05am AEDT

Justin A. Welbergen, CC BY-NC-SA

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Australian health authorities regularly issue [public reminders](#) not to touch bats because they can host Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV). This type of health education is necessary because it reduces human exposure to bat-borne diseases. However, subsequent [sensationalist media reporting risks demonising bats](#), which [increases human-wildlife conflict](#) and [poses barriers to conservation](#).

Bats are remarkable native creatures of key ecological and economic importance. We urgently need more matter-of-fact style reporting around the risks of bat-borne diseases to avoid [vilification](#) and [persecution](#) of these unappreciated mammals.


Read more: [In defence of bats: beautifully designed mammals that should be left in peace](#)


Australia's weird and wonderful bats

Australia has [81 bat species](#), from nine families. They comprise the second-largest group of mammals after marsupials (159 species). They range in size from the little-



Authors

 **Justin Welbergen**
President of the Australian Bat Society | Senior Lecturer in Animal Ecology, Western Sydney University

 **Kyle Armstrong**
Past president of the Australian Bat Society | South Australian Museum, University of Adelaide

Disclosure statement

Justin Welbergen receives funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC)

Kyle Armstrong has received funding from the Australian Biological Resources Study and the Hermon Slide Foundation for work on bats. He also works as a private consultant.

Partners

FFEG update

- Calling for change, incl letter to Australian and Qld Environment Ministers, around:
 1. Inadequate management frameworks and legislation incl review of the COP
 2. Significant impacts currently affecting the EPBC-listed Spectacled Flying-fox
 3. Escalating human flying-fox conflict in Charters Towers
 4. Unhelpful messaging around the risks of bat-borne diseases
- NSW community engagement toolbox



Community Engagement

Australasian Bat Night Program

- Main community engagement tool of the Australasian Bat Society
- Designed to raise awareness about bats in Australasia
- Annual series of local community events held throughout Australia and New Zealand
- Can take many formats:
 - Simple bat talks and walks
 - Flying-fox flyout picnics
 - Bat Festivals
 - Citizen Science projects and workshops
- Grown from 10 events in 2012 to over 100 in 2018



The screenshot shows the website for the Australasian Bat Society. The header includes the organization's name, a logo, and social media icons for Twitter and Facebook. A navigation menu contains links for Home, About Us, About Bats, Grants, News, Events, Get Involved, Resources, and Members. The main content area features a section titled 'Australasian Bat Night' with the sub-heading 'Time to get inspired!'. Below this, there is a paragraph describing the event's history and purpose, followed by a 'How do I get involved?' section with contact information for Maree Kerr. A photograph shows a person in a protective suit holding a bat. Another section encourages users to 'Help make 2018 even better!' by participating in various activities. At the bottom, there is a 'REGISTER YOUR EVENT' button and a small image of a forest.

Australasian Bat Society

Home About Us About Bats Grants News **Events** Get Involved Resources Members

Australasian Bat Night

Time to get inspired!

The inaugural Australasian Bat Night was held in 2012. Each year since, bat specialists have teamed up with community and local government groups to hold over 100 bat events during March, April and May throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Join this fantastic community event where we debunk the myths and fears associated with bats, and demonstrate how better conservation measures can not only help protect our native bats but also assist people to live alongside our nocturnal neighbours!

How do I get involved?

Have a great idea for a bat night event but don't know how to get it started? Or are you an organisation or community group who are ready and rearing to go and just need to advertise your event?!

Register your event or contact our Bat Night Coordinator Maree Kerr at batnight@ausbats.org.au. Please include dates, location, and provide us with links to any advertising you do.

Help make 2018 even better!

There are so many things to do on a Bat Night! How about a bat walk looking for microbat activity or watching a fly-out from a flying fox colony! Building bat boxes is always fun or even better hold a Bat Festival! We are inviting everyone from local councils and community groups to zoos and museums to participate by running bat activities throughout autumn from March to May.

ABS has invited community and local government organisations and individuals to register events and activities but we need your help to make it even better and bigger through promotion of Bat Night.

REGISTER YOUR EVENT

FFEG objectives

Living with flying-foxes

- Nationally coordinated management of flying-foxes based on scientific evidence
- Reduced flying-fox – human conflict
- Conservation outcomes for threatened species
 - Population recovery
 - Protection and enhancement of foraging and roosting habitat
 - Funding for research into understanding cause of declines
- Funding for research into flying-fox behaviour and ecology
- Coordinated and consistent effective community engagement and education



Only by working together, using evidence-based methods, can governments, ecological consultants and community groups achieve a nationally coordinated management plan for the benefit of both people and flying-foxes.

Where to from here

Ongoing actions

ABS strategy, position statements, forums, ongoing advocacy, submissions, education, support.

The FFEG Convenors can be contacted at flyng-fox@ausbats.org.au.



Image: Australian Bat Clinic