



FLYING-FOX
STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT INTENT

PURPOSE

Logan City Council is committed to finding a balance between reducing conflict associated with flying-foxes roosting in urban areas, and the conservation and welfare of these important native species. As such Council's management aims as outlined in this Statement of Management Intent (SoMI) are to:

1. Provide a safe environment for the community where risk associated with flying-fox roosts is appropriately managed, and amenity impacts are reduced as much as possible.
2. Conserve flying-foxes in the Logan City Council area acknowledging their critical ecological role.



How Council plans to manage flying-fox roosts

Council recognises the need to manage impacts to the community associated with flying-fox roosts. Building community capacity and understanding of flying-fox behaviour and their ecological importance will therefore be the focus of Council's management approach.

Where appropriate, consideration will also be given on a case by case basis to vegetation management on Council-owned or managed land where permitted within the State framework (Figure 1).

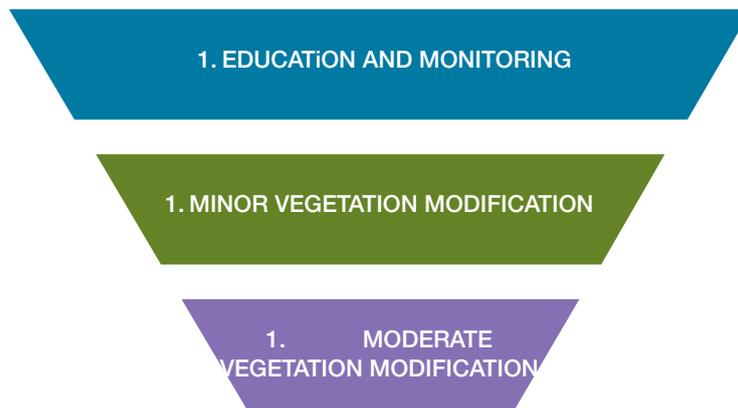


Figure 1 Hierarchical approach to flying-fox roost management

Council believes the most cost effective approach is by engaging and educating people to raise awareness knowledge of the ecological value of flying-foxes and their behaviour. This approach will include:

- The development of school based educational resources in partnership with regional and State partners
- The development and maintenance of Council's flying-fox information webpage
- The development and production of flying-fox interpretive signage in priority locations
- The provision of educational fact sheets about flying-foxes and their critical ecological role

- The provision of advice and support on what residents can do to manage the impacts of flying-foxes on their property
- Continue to promote the importance of flying-foxes at Council workshops, forums and events.

Learnings from other Councils and research has revealed that other management approaches including roost dispersal are very costly and ultimately not effective in reducing human - flying-fox conflict.

A Logan City Council Flying-fox Management Strategy which compliments this SoMI provides more detail on the strategic objectives and management approach for flying-fox roosts within Logan City.



Background

All flying-foxes are native species protected under the *Queensland Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the NC Act). The grey-headed flying-fox is nationally threatened due to population decline, affording it additional protection under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

In 2013, the Queensland Government provided local government with an 'as-of-right' authority to manage flying-fox roosts within designated urban areas (see map on page 5) in accordance with a **Code of Practice** (logan.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/332996/Code-of-Practice_Ecologically-sustainable-management_flying-fox.pdf). The 'as-of-right' allows Council to:

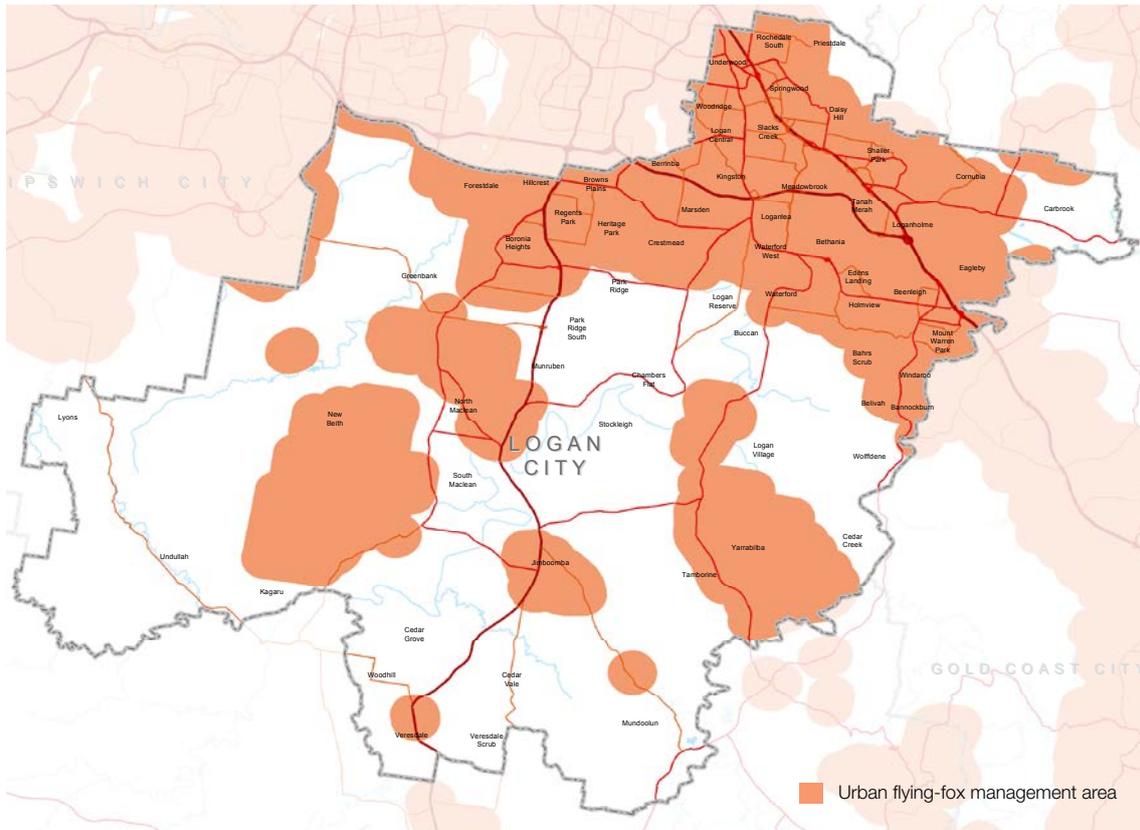
- i. destroy a flying-fox roost
- ii. drive away, or attempt to drive away, a flying-fox from a roost
- iii. disturb a flying-fox in a flying-fox roost.

Whilst Councils have been given the ability to undertake dispersal actions at flying-fox roosts, Logan City Council's priority will be through education and where appropriate, consider on a case by case basis light to moderate vegetation works.

This authority only applies to local government in urban areas, and does not obligate Council to manage any roost. It also does not provide exemptions under other legislation, or for other protected matters, and therefore restrictions may still apply. For example, the grey-headed flying-fox is listed as Vulnerable under the *Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC). This affords it additional protection and restricts management activities at some roosts where it occurs.

The new framework also provides private landholders with an 'as-of-right' authority to undertake certain low impact management activities (i.e. weeding, minor tree trimming) in accordance with another **Code of Practice** (logan.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/67/code-of-practice-low-impact-activities-affecting-flying-fox-roosts). Private landholders also have the ability to apply for permits under relevant State and Commonwealth legislation, and Council will assist impacted landholders by providing advice and guidance on permitting and management options.

Unauthorised activities impacting flying-foxes or their roost habitat can result in significant fines (more than \$100,000) or imprisonment.



Flying-foxes in the Logan City Council area

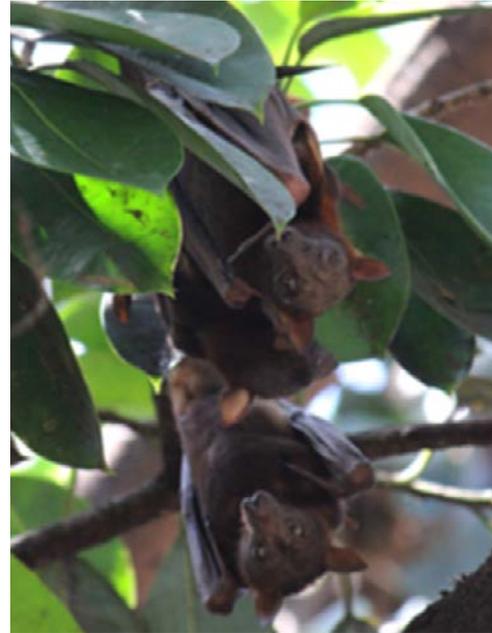
Flying-foxes (also known as ‘bats’ or ‘fruit-bats’) play a key ecological role as long-distance pollinators and seed dispersers, and are important for the long-term persistence of plant communities (including eucalypt and sclerophyll forests). Their ability to distribute seed and cross-pollinate over significant distances during single foraging trips is particularly important in the context of contemporary fragmented landscapes.

Flying-foxes rest and socialise during the day in roosts or camps, leaving each night to forage. They appear to be more frequently roosting and

foraging in urban areas, likely due to a combination of habitat clearing, human encroachment and drought, combined with the opportunities presented by year-round food availability from native and exotic species in urban areas. This has resulted in increased interactions between humans and flying-foxes, which can lead to conflict.



Black flying-fox (*Pteropus alecto*)
Protected under State legislation



Little red flying-fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*)
Protected under State legislation



Grey-headed flying-fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*)
Protected under State and Commonwealth legislation

Three species of flying-foxes occur within Logan City Council area: grey-headed (which are further protected by the Commonwealth's EPBC Act), black and little red flying-fox (protected under State Government legislation).

Further information for residents

There is no reason to be alarmed if flying-foxes set up roost nearby. Many flying-fox roosts are only temporary, particularly with the highly transient little red flying-fox which usually only stays for a number of days or weeks. There is minimal disease risk associated with living near a flying-fox roost (Queensland Health - disease-control.health.qld.gov.au/Condition/771/hendra-virus).

Australian Bat Lyssavirus has only ever been contracted through a bite or scratch, and can be easily prevented by not handling flying-foxes. In the rare instance a person may have been exposed, effective post-exposure vaccinations are available.

Hendra virus may be transferred from a flying-fox to a horse, and then has the potential to infect a person who comes into close contact with an infected horse. There is no known case of the virus being transmitted directly from flying-foxes to humans.

Residents are reminded that unauthorised activities may result in prosecution. Low impact activities (such as mulching, mowing or weeding) are permitted near flying-fox roosts where the activities are not directed at destroying the roost or disturbing the animals. Activities must be in accordance with the **Code of Practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts** (logan.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/67/code-of-practice-low-impact-activities-affecting-flying-fox-roosts).

**If you see an injured or orphaned flying-fox, do not attempt to assist it yourself.
Contact the RSPCA on
1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 675)**

Management of roosts on privately owned land remains the responsibility of the landowner. Information on roost management permits can be found at www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management.html

If you would like to know more information about flying-foxes go to **Council's webpage** (logan.qld.gov.au/environment/wildlife) or if you have a general inquiry, please **contact Council** (details at logan.qld.gov.au/about-council/contact-us) or **email** (environment@logan.qld.gov.au)

Acknowledgements

The Logan City Statement of Management Intent for Flying-fox Roost Management has been guided and informed by Ecosure Pty Ltd.



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*Council's 1300 number is only for use by customers within Logan City from a landline. When contacting Council from a mobile phone or from outside Logan City please phone 3412 3412.