



**Statement of Management Intent
for
Flying-fox Roost Management
in
Banana Shire**

*This statement of management intent was endorsed by Council on 29 June 2016
and has effect from the date of endorsement until superseded.*

1. Authority

Under the [Nature Conservation Act 1992](#), local governments in Queensland have an as-of-right authority to undertake roost management at flying-fox roosts in designated Urban Flying-Fox Management Areas (UFFMAs). An UFFMA for a local government area is defined by maps available from the website of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP).

Outside an UFFMA, a local government requires a flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP), available from EHP. A non-council applicant requires a FFRMP irrespective of the location of the roost.

Further information on the Queensland Government's roost management framework is available by searching 'roost management' on the EHP webpage

<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/index.html>

2. Purpose

The purpose of this SoMI is to articulate the approach that Banana Shire Council will take to the management of flying-fox roosts in Banana Shire.

3. Location of the UFFMA in Banana Shire

A map of the Banana Shire Council UFFMA is available at the following webpage:

<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/maps/banana-shire.pdf>

Residents who wish to view a map of their own property in relation to the UFFMA can do so through the following website:

<https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/management-areas/map-request.php>

4. Council Intentions and Considerations

Responsibility for management of flying fox roosts

- Council will coordinate the management of flying fox roosts on Council land within and outside the UFFMA.
- Where a flying-fox roost is distributed over several parcels of land which include both Council land **and** either State land or private land, Council will work with the relevant landholder to manage the flying fox roost. Costs relating to the management of the flying fox roost will be the responsibility of both Council and the relevant landholders and will be negotiated prior to the application for or implementation of any permit or action.
- Council considers the management of flying-foxes on non-Council land to be the responsibility of the landholder. Council will not have any involvement in the management of flying fox roosts that are located solely on State land or private land or a combination of the two, with the following exception:
 - Council may consider providing assistance through Council's as-of-right authority, based on a case by case assessment, and at the discretion of the Director of Council Services;

1. where flying-foxes have only been located at the roost site for a short time period – this exception is not intended to be actioned on existing long-term roost sites; and
2. when the affected premises:
 - is on land owned by a community organisation, and is a highly sensitive area eg: kindergarten or child care centre; or
 - involves numerous intensively affected private residences, and a coordinated approach is required; and
3. early intervention is necessary, due to health and wellbeing concerns, or significant damage to property, rather than awaiting response to a privately made FFRMP application; and
4. where minimal involvement of Council is required ie Council will provide as-of-right authority notification to EHP, but the management actions are to be undertaken by the landholder in accordance with the relevant code of practice, under the coordination and direction of Council. Any costs associated with the management action are to be borne by the landholder.
5. To determine the appropriate management method that will be permitted under such intervention Council will apply the same principles as indicated in the following section “Council actions – Council land”.

Council actions - Council land

- Council acknowledges the Queensland State Government as a primary partner in managing flying-fox roosts and will work in close partnership with the State when undertaking any management actions.
- Council staff are not permitted to come into physical contact with individual flying-foxes and will receive appropriate Workplace Health and Safety training prior to undertaking activities relating specifically to the management of flying-fox roosts.
- Low impact activities such as mowing that may affect flying fox roosts, will be undertaken in compliance with the [Code of Practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts](#).
- All management actions undertaken at flying-fox roosts will comply with the prescribed methods outlined in the [Code of Practice – Ecologically Sustainable Management of Flying-Fox Roosts](#). According to this Code of Practice, management actions are specifically limited to non-lethal methods.
- Council will refer to DEHP’s [Flying-fox roost management guideline](#) to assist in deciding on a management approach, and in undertaking any management action.
- In any situation where flying-foxes are found to be injured or killed, Council will notify EHP (1300 130 372) and RSPCA Qld (1300 264 625).
- Council’s order of preference for the management approach to a flying-fox roost is as follows:
 1. Minimal intervention – education, monitoring, low impact activities
 2. In situ management – vegetation modification to nudge flying-foxes away from areas of concern
 3. Dispersal - non-lethal methods only
- The following factors will be considered when determining the appropriate management strategy for flying-fox roosts:
 - Proximity to residential dwellings or highly sensitive areas such as schools, kindergartens, child care centres.
 - The numbers and species mix within a roost, and whether they are currently breeding or rearing young.

- The number of years that flying-foxes have used a particular roost site.
 - Legislative compliance
 - The level of risk to human health, safety or wellbeing from the roost - Council will seek to minimise disruption to flying-fox roosts when located in areas that do not pose a risk to public health and safety.
 - The cost of various management actions; and who would contribute to these costs – costs increase significantly with greater management intervention.
 - When the roost is not solely on Council land, whether consent for Council to undertake management has been provided by all relevant landholders, and full cost recovery, proportionate to the land, has been agreed to.
 - Likelihood of success of management actions
 - Whether good outcomes may be achieved with minimal management interventions (such as community education) or moderate management interventions such as ‘nudging’ or ‘buffering’, processes by which the impact of an existing roost may be managed by its reduction.
- Further factors that Council will consider for particular sites prior to undertaking any dispersal, include:
 - The number of years that flying-foxes have used a particular roost site. Flying-foxes are known to have strong affinities with roost sites, and driving flying-foxes away from an established roost may, in some circumstances, prove challenging and resource intensive for a minimal or short term result;
 - The likelihood of flying-foxes relocating to a site of greater conflict with the community;
 - Whether flying-foxes at the site are capable of independent flight at the time of year proposed for driving them away; and
 - Whether a proposed management action may cause harm to flying-foxes.
 - As a general guide, Council will take the following actions when flying-foxes roost on Council land in proximity to existing residential dwellings or highly sensitive areas:
 - When the minimum separation distance between a roost and a residential dwelling **exceeds 100m**, Council will not actively manage the roost and will seek to minimise disturbance to the roost.
 - When the minimum separation distance between a roost and a residential dwelling is **between 100m and 50m**, Council will take a minimal intervention approach, by providing education materials to local landowners and residents and facilitating discussions regarding how to discourage the flying-foxes from spreading closer to dwellings.
 - When the minimum separation distance between a roost and a residential dwelling is **less than 50m**, and a minimal intervention has not effectively resolved impacts, Council will consider an in-situ management approach which seeks to ‘push back’ the roost to an acceptable separation distance. Management actions will be subject to budgetary considerations and may primarily involve:
 - Removal of understorey weeds and overgrown bushes; and/or
 - Removal of most closely impacting roost trees at a time of year when the flying-foxes are no longer present.
 - When the minimum separation distance between a roost and a residential dwelling is **less than 50m and a minimal intervention approach has not effectively resolved impacts, and there is no opportunity to push back the roost to an acceptable separation distance**, Council will consider a dispersal approach, and discuss options for, and risks associated with dispersal of the roost with state experts and the community. Any discussion involving dispersal of flying-fox roosts will need to consider budgetary constraints associated with complying with the conditions of

the Code of Practice, and the likelihood that dispersal actions will lead to a desired outcome.

Council actions - Non-Council land

- Anyone making an enquiry relating to flying-fox roosts on non-Council land should be advised of Council's SoMI in relation to flying-fox roost management and directed to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP) as a first point-of-call.
- Council may still provide basic advice and information to the public regarding the appropriate management of flying-foxes on non-Council land.
- Residents may apply to DEHP for a permit to undertake management actions on non-Council land. If a resident is dissatisfied with Council's approach at a particular roost site, they may be advised that they may apply for a permit directly from DEHP.
- The landholder may undertake low impact activities under the *Code of Practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts*.
- Enquiries relating to flying-fox diseases should be directed to the Communicable Diseases section of Queensland Health.

Definitions

Council Land - For the purpose of this SoMI Council Land includes:

- Land owned or leased by Council;
- Land under Council control such as reserves with Council as trustee; and
- Local government roads

Distance between a roost and a residential dwelling – The distance between a roost and a residential dwelling is measured from the roost to the nearest building that meets the definition of a residential dwelling.

Flying-fox roost – according to section 88C(6) of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, flying-fox roost means a tree or other place where flying-foxes congregate from time to time for breeding or rearing their young.

Residential Dwelling – for the purposes of this policy, a residential dwelling may also include nursing homes, classrooms, child care facilities or other buildings used for similar purposes. A residential dwelling does not include a shed or similar out building that is detached from the residential dwelling.

5. Further Information

For further information on flying-fox management contact:

- Banana Shire Council on 49929500 or visit Council's website <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/>.
- The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on 13 QGOV (13 74 68) or visit their website <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/>
- For further information about flying-fox diseases or to report bites, scratches or physical exposure concerns contact Queensland Health on 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or visit their website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/>
- For further information about Hendra virus visit the Biosecurity Queensland website [http://www.daff.qld.gov.au.](http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/)