



**STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT INTENT -
FLYING-FOX ROOST MANAGEMENT IN IPSWICH
CITY**

Version: 2

Document No:
A3853164

1.1 Objective:

To protect the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of the residents of Ipswich City while recognising the important ecological role performed by flying-fox populations.

Human Rights Commitment

Ipswich City Council (Council) has considered the human rights protected under the *Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld)* (the Act) when adopting and/or amending this policy. When applying this policy, Council will act and make decisions in a way that is compatible with human rights and give proper consideration to a human right relevant to the decision in accordance with the Act.

1.2 Regulatory Authority:

Under the *State Nature Conservation Act 1992*, and associated regulations, Councils have a voluntary as-of-right authority allowing them, if they so choose, to implement additional management actions for flying-fox roosts in a defined urban area. Councils also have an option to create a management plan to extend their authority beyond defined urban areas. The as-of-right management actions are limited to non-lethal methods, and may only be undertaken in accordance with the statutory *Code of Practice – ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts*.

In administering the as-of-right authority Councils must still abide with a range of other legislation and policy. Key among these are protections afforded to the Grey-headed flying-fox under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* which is not affected or diminished in any way by the State changes.

1.3 Policy Scope:

This document establishes a policy framework for management of existing and new flying-fox roosts located within the city. The State provisions define areas within Council's planning scheme having a residential or commercial purpose, including a buffer of one (1) kilometre, as the Urban Flying Fox Management Area (UFFMA)*. Council's policy will apply to roosts located both within and outside of the UFFMA through adoption of a city wide management plan.

Council will manage flying-fox roosts located on Council owned or managed land. In addition, where a roost occupies both Council land and adjacent private property, Council will work with the respective land owner/s to develop management solutions, consistent

with this policy, and the subsequent flying-fox management plan. A hierarchical approach to flying-fox roost management will be employed favouring education and minimal intervention strategies developed on a case by case basis.

Council will support private property owners to manage flying-fox roosts on their land. A city-wide flying-fox management plan will underpin the provision of a range of services for private land owners including:

- Provision of education materials
- Provision of technical support
- Provision of research data and support
- Referral to expert information sources

In exceptional circumstances Council may assist a private property owner to develop and implement a roost specific management action. These situations will be identified through risk assessment processes applied on a case by case basis as detailed in the section of this policy titled Management Plan.

A number of flying-fox matters are outside the scope of this policy including any management of roosts or flying-foxes matters in association with:

- State owned or managed land
- Commonwealth owned or managed land

Management of flying-foxes in these locations should be discussed with the respective land owner or manager. Further, this policy clarifies Council's role in relation to a number of additional matters of flying-fox management and human health.

1.4 Policy Statement:

The following key policy statements will guide Council's management of flying-fox roosts and associated management issues and actions:

- ❖ Human health and wellbeing will be given primary consideration over the health and wellbeing of flying foxes where significant conflict is found to exist between the two;
- ❖ Flying foxes perform an essential ecological role, pollinating and dispersing the seeds of native plants and maintaining forest health;
- ❖ Due to the highly mobile and dynamic nature of flying-fox roosts any management actions will be considered and developed on a case by case basis;
- ❖ Council will follow a hierarchical approach to flying-fox roost management favouring education and minimal intervention;
- ❖ A risk based assessment process will be used to determine the requirement for any roost specific management actions;
- ❖ Management actions including dispersals and vegetation modification will only be considered after less intrusive actions have been tried and found to be unsuccessful. Dispersals have a low documented success rate in Australia with significant potential to exacerbate the existing situation.

Management Plan

Council will develop a city-wide flying-fox management plan for existing and new roosts

located within and outside the UFFMA. The plan will contain the necessary information required to guide and support well informed, balanced and consistent flying-fox management actions.

Key elements to be developed and implemented through the plan will include:

- Quarterly monitoring of roost locations, species and numbers on Council owned and managed land;
- Risk based management zones and strategy development for roosts are defined as being:
 - 'High risk' if located within 100 metres of sensitive sites such as schools, medical and formal equestrian facilities;
 - 'Medium conflict' if located within 50 metres of residential or commercial development and greater than 100 metres from a sensitive site;
 - 'Low conflict' if located greater than 50 to 100 metres of residential or commercial development and greater than 100 metres from a sensitive site;
 - 'Preferred roost locations' if located on protected areas declared under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, for which Council is trustee, or greater than 100 metres from residential or commercial development; and
 - 'New roosts' where a site is occupied for less than three (3) months with no previous roosting history.
- Process for responding to heat stress and hypothermia in flying-fox roosts;
- Mapping of historical and current roost areas and management zones in association with Council owned and managed land;
- Roost histories incorporating locations, species composition, population numbers, major roost changes, actions, interventions and associated outcomes;
- A community consultation strategy based on Council's hierarchical approach to flying-fox roost management;
- A package of support for private land owners with flying-fox issues delivering educational and research materials and technical support;
- The legislative framework associated with flying-fox and associated habitat management; and
- A risk and benefit framework for management actions.

1.5 Roles and responsibilities

In addition to Council a number of agencies and organisations play an important role in the management of flying foxes.

Flying-fox biology and management

Further information on flying foxes, their biology and management options for roosts located on private property are available from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.

Health and Safety

For up to date information on flying-fox related human health matters residents are advised to contact the Queensland Health hotline.

Flying-fox rescue

Residents are advised never to touch or attempt to aid a sick or injured flying-fox. For assistance with sick or injured flying foxes contact Bat Conservation and Rescue Queensland. Residents are advised to visit Council's website for information on disposal of dead flying-foxes.

1.6 Definitions:

Urban Flying Fox Management Area (UFFMA) – those land parcels defined within a local government planning scheme as having a residential or commercial purpose with the addition of a one (1) kilometre buffer.

Management actions – non lethal actions intended to stop flying-foxes from making use of a site or part of a site.

* Mapping is available from the Department of Environment & Heritage website at <http://ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/maps/ipswich-city.pdf>

1.7 Policy Author: Planning Officer (Biodiversity)

Date of Council Resolution: 22 April 2014

Date of Review: 28 October 2016

Committee Reference and Date: Policy and Administration Board No. 2014(03) of 1 April 2014 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2014(04) of 15 April 2014

No. of Resolution: 2

Date to be Reviewed: 28 October 2018