

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT INTENT FOR FLYING FOX ROOST MANAGEMENT IN LIVINGSTONE SHIRE

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Management Intent is to outline the position of Livingstone Shire Council concerning Flying Fox Roost Management within designated Urban Flying-Fox Management Areas in accordance with the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

It provides direction regarding a logical and balanced approach to management of Council land containing or surrounding a flying fox roost and to dealing with complaints from the public regarding flying fox colonies.

2 Background

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*, within designated Urban Flying-Fox Management Areas, Council may carry out activities to interfere with a flying-fox roost under the “Code of Practice – Ecologically Sustainable Management of Flying-Fox Roosts”, in situations where the location of flying-foxes is in conflict with public health and safety.

Livingstone Shire Council recognises the ecological importance of flying-foxes and their valuable contribution to sustaining our unique biodiversity through pollination and seed dispersal of natural vegetation while recognising the health and wellbeing of humans.

3 Location of UFFMA in Livingstone Shire Council

Urban Flying Fox Management Areas have been identified over land subject to an urban zoning under Councils planning scheme, inclusive of a one kilometre buffer around such areas. This area of Urban Flying Fox management is mapped by the state government (Appendix A) and can be found at: <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/living-with/bats/flying-foxes/roost-monitoring-locations/urban-management-areas>

The Livingstone Shire Urban Flying Fox Management Area is identified along with the Rockhampton Region at present. To view a map of an individual property in relation to the Urban Flying Fox Management Area, refer to: <https://environment.desi.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/bats/map-request>

The Livingstone Shire Council area has a number of permanent and known roost sites:

- Yeppoon Ross Creek / Fig Tree Creek estuary area
- Emu Park – Bell Park area
- Keppel Sands – Pumpkin Creek area
- Great Keppel Island
- Marlborough

4 Management Options

Where Council owned or controlled land is inhabited or affected by flying-foxes and their presence significantly impacts residents or the community, Council will consider appropriate non-lethal measures to manage flying fox roosts in accordance with the relevant Code of Practice.

Council will develop public education resources to assist the community to understand the issues around living in proximity to flying foxes and the practical measures to mitigate health risks.

Complaints in relation to roosts on private land will be referred to the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation for management options. Complaints in relation to roosts on State land will be referred to The Department of Environment, Science and Innovation for management options.

5 General guidelines

It is not feasible to provide uniform directions for deciding when to intervene to modify roost trees or move a flying fox roost. Each case will be assessed on its merit following guidelines as established by this document and with reference to legislation and established best practice.

Manipulating animal populations should be considered carefully as such intervention can have unforeseen consequences. Various aspects of flying fox population dynamics dictate that attempts to disperse or move a colony may be difficult, if not impossible. Therefore dispersal should be regarded as the last option for managing a particular local problem.

On receiving a complaint about the location/presence of a flying fox colony near or within a residential area, all reasonable efforts should be made to deal with the situation through education. Council officers should conduct a situation assessment and seek expert advice where required.

The following factors will be considered before any action is undertaken:

- Proximity to residences and sensitive areas, such as schools;
- Health risks to humans and domestic animals;
- History of colonies using this site (is it an established roost or transitional campsite);
- The species mix within a roost;
- Welfare of the animals - general assessment of the animals' health and condition;
- Breeding status of population, presence of immature flying foxes and stage of development;
- Legislative compliance;
- Land ownership;
- Status of roost vegetation such as protected mangroves or remnant vegetation;
- Environmental impacts;
- Likelihood of success and cost of management actions;
- Possible relocation sites and impacts;
- Level of impact on affected residents/community (noise, smell, presence of the colony); and
- Whether or not appropriate educational tools have been utilised.

6 Effective From

This statement of management intent was endorsed by Council on 17th July 2018 and has effect from 1st August 2018 until superseded.