

Statement of Management Intent

for

Flying-fox Roost Management

in

Rockhampton Regional Council



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 Science (DES).

Outside an UFFMA, a local government requires a Flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP), available from DES. 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 at the following webpage:

<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management.html>

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Management Intent (SoMI) is to articulate the approach that Rockhampton Regional Council will take to the management of flying-fox roosts in the Rockhampton Region.

3. Location of the UFFMA in Rockhampton Regional Council

A map of the Rockhampton Regional Council UFFMA is available at the following webpage: <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/management-areas.html>

4. Council intentions and considerations

Council will co-ordinate the management of flying fox roosts on Council owned or State land placed under the control of Council pursuant to the *Land Act 1994* within and outside the UFFMA. Costs relating to the management of the flying fox roost will be negotiated prior to the application for or implementation of any permit or action.

Where a flying fox roost is on Council owned or State land placed under the control of Council pursuant to the *Land Act 1994* and either State land(s) or private land(s), 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 landholder and will be negotiated prior to the application for or implementation of any permit or action.

Council's considers the management of flying-foxes on non-Council land to be the responsibility of the landholder. It is Councils intent is to have no involvement in the management of flying fox roosts solely on State land(s) or private land(s) or a combination of the two with the following exception:

- Council may consider providing assistance through Council's as-of-right authority, where the affected land is owned by a community organisation or State Government body and is a highly sensitive area eg: kindergarten, child care centre or school; In these cases, the

costs related to the management of the flying fox roost would be negotiated prior to action being undertaken.

After a significant influx of little-red flying foxes, Council may consider providing assistance to the affected immediate community, particularly persons at risk such as elderly persons without support.

Factors that Council will consider before deciding whether to take any action at particular sites, includes:

- The wellbeing impacts and concerns that nearby residents are experiencing;
- Whether Council considers that there are any risks to human health or wellbeing from the roost; and
- Whether the roost is on Council land and State land(s) or private land(s), and if State land(s) or private land(s), 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.

Additional factors that Council will consider in deciding the most appropriate action to take at particular sites, includes:

- The cost of various management actions; and who would contribute to these costs;
- The number of each species of flying-foxes at the roost, and what Council's intention would be should the flying-foxes be breeding or rearing their young; and
- 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, where Council decides, for particular sites, that the most appropriate action may be dispersal, includes:

- The number of years that flying-foxes have used a particular roost site;
- 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.

If residents are dissatisfied with Council's approach at a particular roost site, they may apply for a permit directly from DES. Residents will require landholder consent to be able to apply for the permit.

If a roost is on private land(s), low impact activities may be undertaken by a person as-of-right under the relevant code of practice. The *Code of practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roost*.

Council's roost management actions will be undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts*.

5. Further information

For further information on flying-fox management contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 22 55 77 or visit Council's website at <https://www.rockhamptonregion.qld.gov.au/Council-Services/Environment-and-Public-Health/Flying-Foxes> or visit the Department of Environment and Science website at <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals-az/bats.html>