



Feeling the heat?

You're not the only one. Our native wildlife feel it too.

Council has been proactive in planning for predicted heatwave events to minimise impacts to the flying fox population and the community.

It is predicted that the number of heat wave events will increase in the future, so it is likely that flying foxes and other wildlife will suffer from heat stress.

A flying fox heat stress event is likely to occur in high humidity with temperatures greater than 38°C and deaths can occur over 40°C.

No touch = no risk.

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What to do if you find a flying fox in your backyard

Please do not touch flying foxes.

During a flying fox heat stress event, some flying foxes may become displaced from the colony and could end up in your backyard.

Do not attempt to touch these animals even if they appear to be sick or dead.

Keep all animals, pets and children away from the flying fox. **No touch = no risk.**

If you find a flying fox that is sick or injured, please contact the **NQ Wildlife Carers** hotline on 0414 717 374 or **Bat Conservation and Rescue Queensland** on 0488 228 134 as soon as possible.

Deceased flying foxes can be removed by contacting Council on 13 48 10.

Why you shouldn't touch flying foxes

Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)

Less than 1% of flying foxes have ABLV and transmission only occurs through bites or scratches, therefore, **no touch = no risk.**

There is no evidence that ABLV can be spread or contracted from flying fox faeces (droppings) or urine.

Hendra Virus


Humans cannot contract the Hendra virus from flying foxes. Transmission occurs only through close contact with infected horses.

For more information please call Queensland Health: 13 HEALTH (13 432 584)

What should you do if someone is bitten or scratched by a flying fox?

Do not panic - the chance of contracting ABLV is very low. Simply wash the wound gently with soap and water for about five minutes. **DO NOT** scrub the wound. Apply an antiseptic solution with anti-virus action such as an iodine-based disinfectant or alcohol and then **contact a doctor or the nearest hospital immediately** to assess the need for further treatment.

For further information, please contact Townsville City Council:

 13 48 10

 enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au

 townsville.qld.gov.au/animals



Flying foxes are a protected native species under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.