

*This Statement of Management Intent was endorsed by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 and has effect from 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016 until superseded*

## **1. Introduction**

Townsville City Council has committed to developing a beyond best practice solution and practical management procedures for the challenge of managing Flying Fox roosts across Townsville City.

In undertaking this Council needs to consider overall repercussions for the broader Townsville community in any action it chooses to undertake, including regional and local stakeholder impacts as well as cost considerations, likelihood of success, location of the roost, species present, legislative compliance, and health risks. An essential management action is that of communication and monitoring.

An integrated approach can reduce costs to community and Council, and gives greatest opportunity to effectively manage and mitigate flying fox impacts on residents and recreational and public park/gardens.

An approach that demonstrates that flying foxes are native animals, critical to environmental ecology and biodiversity and animals which we can live safely alongside with minimal risk and gain the environmental benefits of their presence. Whilst acknowledging there are a variety of views relating to the animals within the community.

This document outlines the course of action Townsville City Council will undertake to manage Flying fox roosts now and into the future.

## **2. 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). The UFFMA for Townsville is defined by the map included as Figure 1 in section 3 below.

Outside an UFFMA, council requires a flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP), available from Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. A non-council applicant requires a FFRMP irrespective of the location of the roost.

## **3. Purpose**

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

#### 4. Location of the UFFMA in Townsville

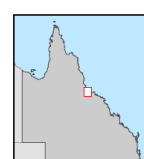
Figure 1. Townsville UFFMA



**TOWNSVILLE CITY**

**Legend**


- Urban Flying-Fox Management Area
- Local Government Area
- Road



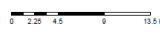
COORDINATE SYSTEM: GCS ODA 1994  
HORIZONTAL DATUM: ODA 1994

MAP PRODUCTION  
29 July 2013  
Nature Conservation Services  
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

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Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2013



**Urban Flying-Fox Management Area**



41 992 072

## 5. Council intentions and considerations

If it is determined via risk assessment that an urban flying fox colony is posing a significant risk to residents or council assets, council may move to undertake active management, fully considering each of the following factors:

- Likelihood of success of management actions.
- Risk associated with management actions
- proximity to residences
- health risks to humans and domestic animals
- the species mix within a roost
- legislative compliance
- land ownership
- cost of action
- cost of damage caused by colony

The available range of actions should be considered in the following order:

### a. Minimal intervention

For Example: Education, ongoing monitoring and maintenance of site in accordance with the code of Practice

### b. In situ management

For Example: Modifying vegetation to try to control flying fox distribution.

### c. Dispersal

For Example: modifying or destroying roost vegetation, and actively discouraging flying foxes from using to a site, dispersal in accordance with the code of practice.

Noting that both risk and cost increase significantly with each stage of action.

Activities to manage flying fox roosts will be individually risk assessed, and Council staff undertaking work in these areas provided appropriate WH&S training and equipment.

Where a roost is located on public land, there is a buffer from private residences (i.e. Road, Mangrove) and is not causing damage to any council asset, Council will not seek to relocate such roosts, and will seek to manage such roosts to minimise disturbances to the colony. This will help avoid these animals colonising less suitable areas.

In urban areas where Flying Fox colonies naturally occur on private property or through no action of council, Council can provide advice and will defer action to the local landholder in compliance with relevant legislation.

In general, Council will not support actions to relocate flying fox roosts from rural areas, given the probability of transferring the problem to other landholders/communities.

Some Flying Fox camps can be short-term and transitory, especially if they are mostly made up of the highly nomadic Little Red Flying Fox species, *Pteropus scapulatus*. Unless there are any identified major risks, newly established little red camps should be monitored for the first 6 to 8 weeks from establishment before any action is undertaken, given the likelihood they will move on of their own accord.

## **6. Additional Information**

For further information on flying fox management contact Townsville City Council on 1300 878 001 or visit Council's website at <https://www.townsville.qld.gov.au> or visit the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website at <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au>