

Statement of Management Intent – Flying-fox Roost Management

Policy Type	Governance Statement	Version:	2.0
Responsible Officer	Coordinator Health & Local Laws	Date Approved:	17/07/2024
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Author:	Coordinator Health & Local Laws	Commencement:	17/07/2024

1. PURPOSE

To declare the approach that Mareeba Shire Council (Council) will take to the management of flying-fox roosts in the Mareeba Shire.

2. SCOPE

This Statement of Management Intent applies across the Mareeba Shire Council jurisdiction.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1 AUTHORITY

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld), 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, Science and Innovation (DESI).

Outside an UFFMA, a local government requires a flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP), available from EHP. 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 by searching for the term 'roost management' on the DESI webpage www.desi.qld.gov.au

3.2 LOCATION OF THE UFFMA

A map of the Mareeba Shire Council UFFMA is available at the following webpage:
<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/plants-animals/animals/living-with/bats/flying-foxes/roost-monitoring-locations/urban-management-areas>

Residents who wish to view a map of their own property in relation to the UFFMA can do so through the following website:

<https://environment.desi.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/bats/map-request>

3.3 COUNCIL INTENTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Council will coordinate the management of flying-fox roosts on Council owned or State land placed under the control of Council pursuant to the *Land Act 1994* (Qld) 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.

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

Please note, Mareeba Shire Council's intent is to not be involved in the management of flying-fox roosts solely on State land or private land or a combination of the two.

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 there are any risks to human health or wellbeing from a roost;
- Whether a roost is on Council land and State land or private land, 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 before commencement of dispersal action.

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 a roost, and what Council's intention would be should the flying-foxes be breeding or rearing their young;
- 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 is 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
- 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 EHP.

If a roost is on private land, 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 dispersal actions will be undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts*.

3.4 FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on flying-fox management contact Mareeba Shire Council on 1300 308 461 or visit Council's website at <http://www.msc.qld.gov.au> or visit the DESI website at <http://www.desi.qld.gov.au>

4. REPORTING

No additional reporting is required

5. DEFINITIONS

Definitions are needed to explain the terminology used in the policy.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts (State of Queensland 2021)

Code of practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roost (State of Queensland 2021)

Land Act 1994 (Qld)

Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)

7. REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Manager Development & Governance to monitor the adequacy of this policy and implement and approve appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed every four (4) years or as required by Council.