

Flying Fox

Statement of Management Intent

September 2019



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).

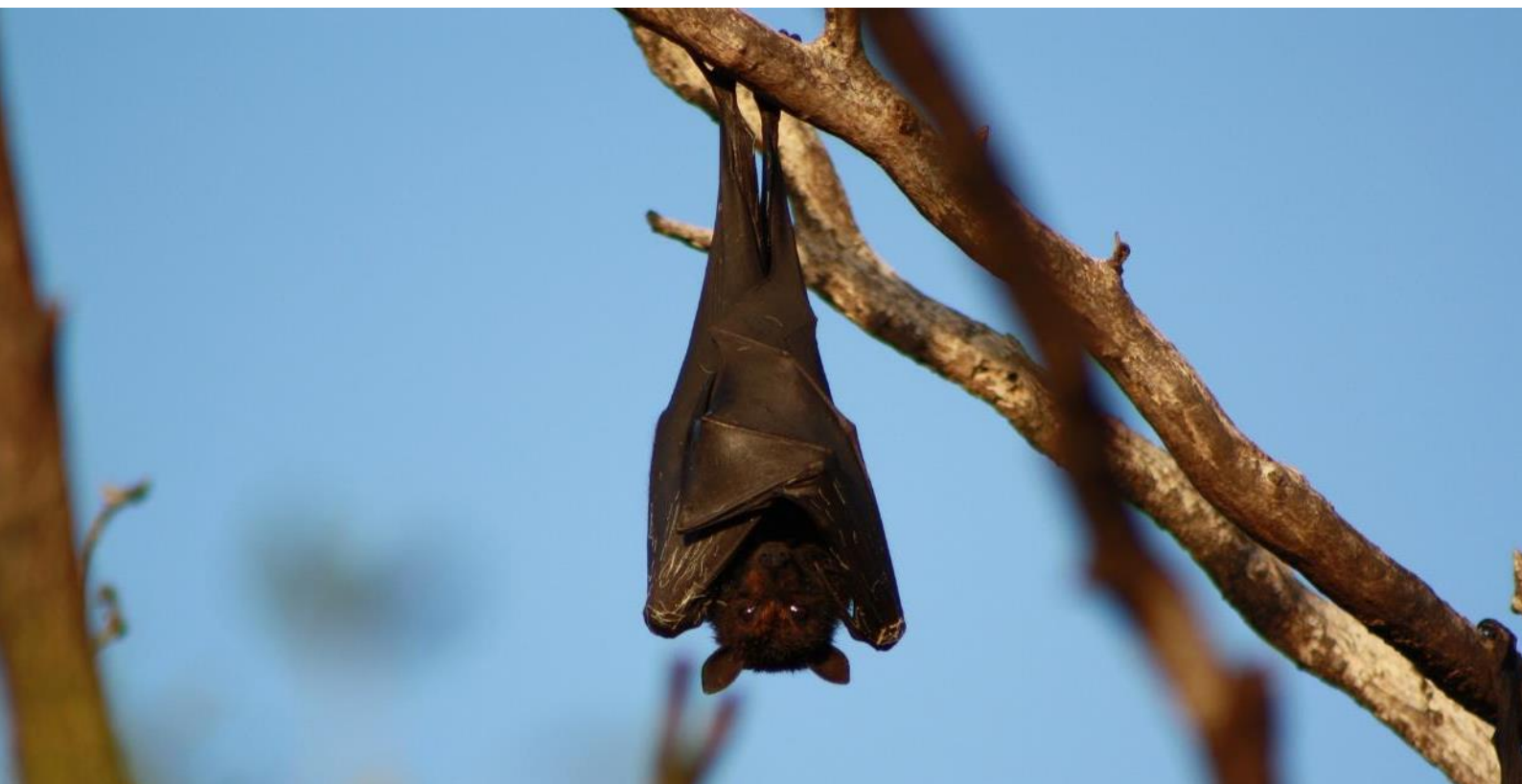
Outside an UFFMA, a local government requires a flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP), available from DES. A local government also has the option to apply for a FFRMP should it wish to trial roost management techniques that are outside the Code of Practice. A non-council applicant requires a FFRMP irrespective of the location of the roost.

Further information on the Queensland Government's roost management framework is available by searching 'roost management' on the DES webpage www.des.qld.gov.au

Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Management Intent is to articulate the approach that Charters Towers Regional Council will take to the management of flying-fox roosts in the Charters Towers Regional Council area.

Charters Towers Regional Council's objective is to minimise risk to members of the public, contractors and employees of the Charters Towers Regional Council whilst entering or undertaking duties within areas designated as an **Urban Flying-Fox Management Area**.

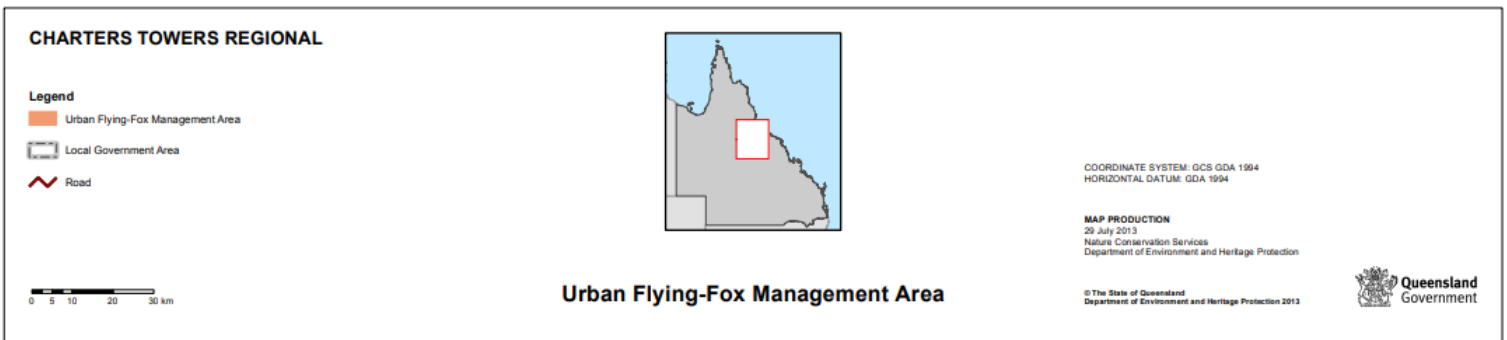
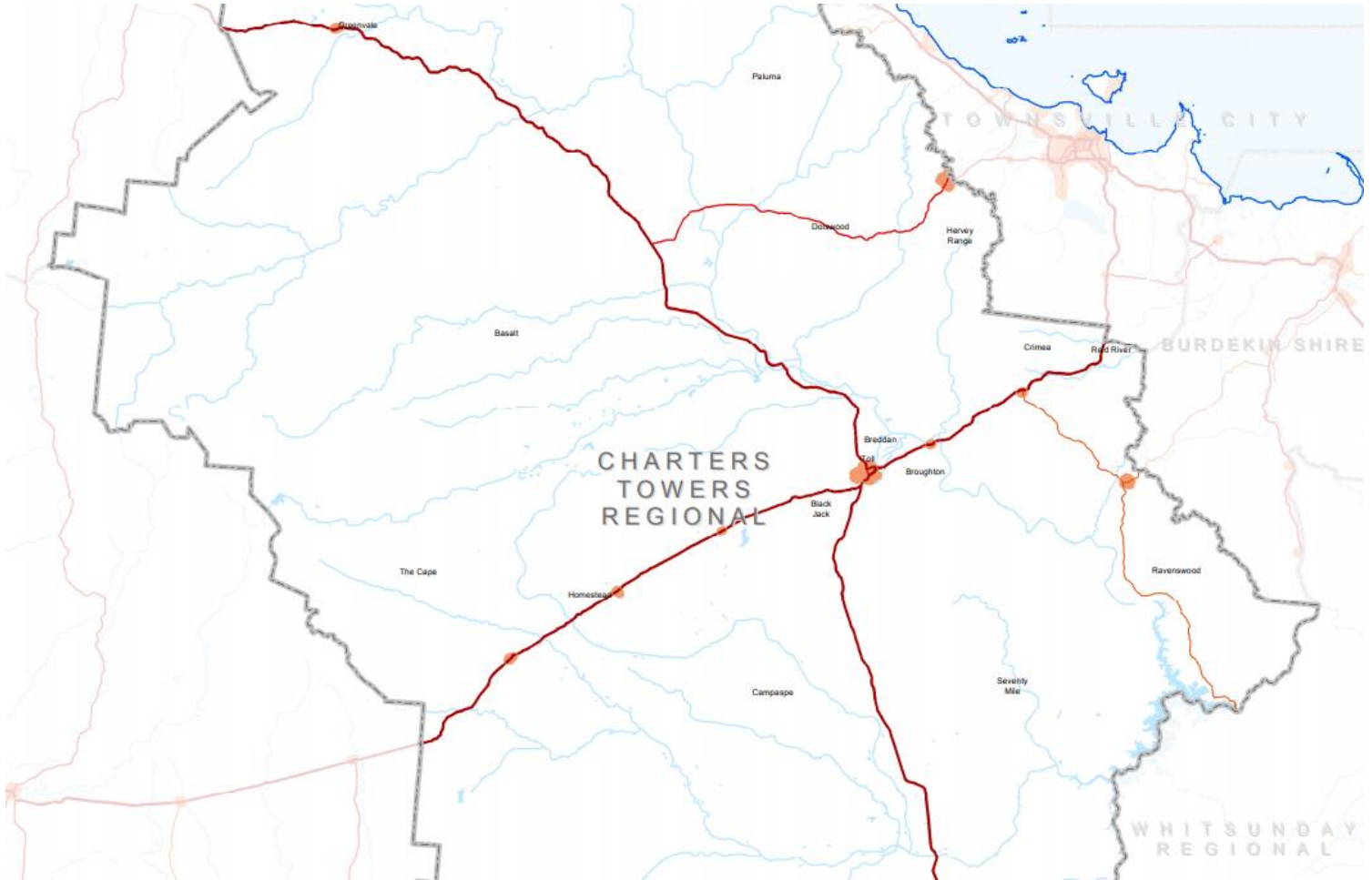


Location of the UFFMA in the Charters Towers Regional Council Area

Two species of flying fox are present within the Charters Towers Regional Council area, namely the little red (*Pteropus scapulatus*) and the black (*Pteropus alecto*) flying fox. In urban settings, a roost is well established in Lissner Park, Charters Towers and large numbers of flying foxes tend to visit the Ravenswood Showgrounds periodically.

These maps are available [here](#) and [here](#).

For a more detailed map, please refer to Annex A



Flying-foxes are native nocturnal mammals that tend to travel significant distances during the night foraging in search of food (nectar and fruit), and congregate during the day for rest (or for breeding, at certain times of the year). The sites where they congregate are known as roosts or roost sites.

Flying-fox foraging plays a significant role in pollination and seed dispersal for native vegetation.

There are four species of flying-fox commonly found in Queensland - the black flying-fox *Pteropus alecto*, grey-headed flying-fox *P. poliocephalus*, little red flying-fox *P. scapulatus* and spectacled flying-fox *P. conspicillatus* - all of which are protected under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (the Act). The grey-headed and spectacled flying-foxes are also listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, however, these two species have not been observed in the Charters Towers region.

Though highly mobile, flying-foxes tend to develop strong affinities with roost sites. Individual animals may use a different roost site on a short term (even nightly) basis but roost sites themselves are relatively more stable. Nonetheless the presence and number of animals at a roost site can change with seasonal conditions and the availability and distribution of food across the landscape.



Some communities have large flying-fox roosts in, or close to, urban areas (e.g. in town parks or cemeteries). Many of these places are known to Department of Environment and Science and to local authorities and are mapped and monitored.

Roosts in urban areas can be objectionable to nearby residents due to the level of noise and odour generated.

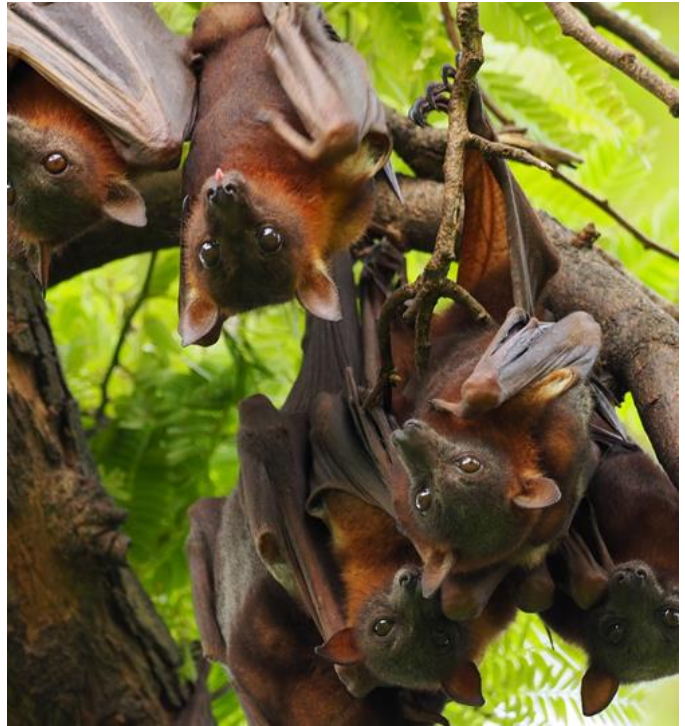
Some flying-foxes carry the Australian Bat Lyssavirus, a rabies-like virus and are recognised as playing a role in the transmission of Hendra Virus to horses. While these two viruses represent a concern for some members of the community, the health risks are known to be minimal.

For further information relating to flying-foxes and human health please refer to the Flying Fox in Charters Towers flyer found [here](#) or by visiting the [Queensland Health website](#)

Council Intentions and Considerations

In order to find balance between flying-fox, community, health, conservation and heritage, Council is committed to delineating its intent in the management of flying foxes in the heritage listed, Lissner Park, that forms the centerpiece of Charters Towers. These include:

1. Provide a safe environment for the community, where risk associated with flying-fox roosts are appropriately managed and impacts on the surrounding amenity reduced.
2. That flying-fox management decisions are transparent and collaborative and based on the latest research and development options available at the time.
3. That innovative ideas are advanced and explored through the Charters Towers Flying Fox Advisory Committee and upon agreement, recommendations advanced to Council seeking resolution.
4. That Council meets its obligations in complying with all relevant legislation, codes of practice, technical guides, Council Policy and other documents that are considered best practice.
5. To ensure all activities undertaken are done so with the most appropriate risk assessments and within potential funding and budgetary confines.
6. To ensure conservation of flying-foxes, by acknowledging their critical ecological role.
7. To ensure the heritage aspects of Lissner Park are understood and maintained.
8. To maintain a clear and concise public relations position between resident, business and local government on all matters relevant to the management of flying foxes within a known roost.



Information for Residents

If a flying-fox roost is on private land(s), low impact activities may be undertaken by the landholder(s) as-of-right under the relevant code of practice. The Code of practice – Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts is available at the following webpage <http://www.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management.html>

Should residents be dissatisfied with Council's approach at a particular roost site, they may apply for a permit directly from DES. The flying-fox roost management permit application form is available at the following webpage <http://www.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management-permits.html>

All persons are authorised to undertake low impact activities at roosts in accordance with the [Code of practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts](#) Low impact activities include weeding, mulching, mowing or minor tree trimming. Operating outside of the code of practice is not authorised and may have legal consequences.

Associated Documents

- Code of Practice Low Impact activities affecting Flying Fox Roosts
- Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts
- Flying-fox roost management guideline
- Lissner Park Conservation Management Plan
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992*
- *Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017*
- *Nature conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006*
- *Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006*
- *Queensland Heritage Act 1992*
- *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (Indirect application)
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (federal act)
- Charters Towers Regional Council, Workplace health & Safety Procedure Bats and Flying Foxes
- Charters Towers Regional Council, STRAT0047 Open Space Policy.
- Flying fox advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Further Links

Technical Note – Parks, Garden and Landscape Maintenance Heritage Places

https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0028/66295/tn-parks-gardens.pdf

Lissner Park Conservation Management Plan

<http://www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au/documents/41682213/41768443/Lissner%20Park%20Conservation%20Management%20Plan>

Code of Practice Low Impact activities affecting Flying Fox Roosts

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/pdf/cp-wl-ff-low-impact-roosts.pdf>

Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/documents/cp-wl-ff-roost-management.pdf>

Flying-fox roost management guideline

<https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/licences-permits/plants-animals/documents/gl-wl-ffrm.pdf>

Flying Fox Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

<http://www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au/documents/41682213/44679686/Flying%20Fox%20Advisory%20Committee%20Terms%20of%20Reference>



LEGEND	
	Designated Roost
	Maximum Recorded Extent 8 December 2017

Lissner Park Flying Fox Roost and Maximum Recorded Extent

0 25 50 100 150
metres
Scale @ A3 - 1:4,000

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