



FLYING FOX ROOST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted Date:	25 October 2023
Policy Number:	GRC 105
Policy Type:	Strategic
Responsible Officer:	Environmental Health Officer
Department:	Community & Corporate Services

Version	Decision Number or CEO Approval	Decision Date	History
1	Adopted OM-171/23	25 October 2023	Review September 2024
2			
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1. BACKGROUND

Flying foxes are a protected native species that play a vital role in the ecology of native plants as long-range pollinators and seed dispersers. Two of the four species of flying-fox that occur in Queensland are threatened species nationally, and all are affected by significant habitat loss and landscape modifications.

In Queensland, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (NCA) is the primary legislation that regulates flying-fox roost management. S88C of the NCA prohibits the destruction of a flying-fox roost, driving away or attempting to drive away flying-foxes from a roost and the disturbance of a flying-fox in a roost unless a person is authorised to do so.

Council has established a Regional Flying Fox Management Plan to incorporate longer-term flying fox management options centred on roost management of existing roosts located in conflict areas; and the identification of suitable areas in the region where alternative flying fox roost habitat can be improved/developed in more appropriate non-conflict areas.

2. DEFINITIONS

Council-managed land: Land which is under Council control. This includes State-owned land for which Council is trustee.

Flying-fox Management Plan (FFMP): A document which outlines the management approach/strategy for a singular roost or several related roosts.

Flying-fox roost (roost): Refers to a discrete spatial area where flying-foxes (50 or greater) congregate during the hours of 6am to 6pm, regardless of breeding or temporal status.

Council: Goondiwindi Regional Council.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Council will manage flying-fox roosts with a view to balancing the community's expectations of Council, public amenity, overarching state legislative frameworks and the conservation of flying-fox species across the region.

Councils Regional Flying-fox Management Plan outlines:

- i. Council's roles and responsibilities in relation to flying-fox roosts;
- ii. How Council will approach management of roosts; and
- iii. What actions may be undertaken by Council in accordance with relevant legislation.

Council may undertake the following actions:

- a) Monitor flying-fox roosts within the Goondiwindi Regional Council local government area;
- b) Provide education and advice to residents, businesses and community users which are in proximity to a flying-fox roost, to assist with reducing the impacts of flying-fox roosts; and
- c) Undertake management actions at flying-fox roosts located on Council-managed land.

4. PURPOSE

This policy will aid decision making processes and help determine appropriate flying-fox management actions.

5. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to outline the management actions that Goondiwindi Regional Council (Council) may undertake to reduce the impact of flying-fox roosts on the community in the Goondiwindi region.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999 (Cth)*
- *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*
- *Planning Act 2016 (Qld)*
- Regional Flying-Fox Management Plan
- Goondiwindi Regional Council Corporate Plan (2019-2024)

7. REVIEW DATE

September 2024