Statement of Management Intent

for

Flying-fox roost management

in the North Burnett region by

North Burnett Regional Council
and others as authorised under this document as Local Government’s “as of right” authority under the Nature Conservation Act 1992.

This Statement of Management Intent was endorsed by Council on 15 January 2020 and has effect from 1 February 2020 until superseded.
1. 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) provided they comply with the *Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts*. An UFFMA for a local government area comprises urban residential and urban commercial zones, derived primarily from local government planning schemes, with a one-kilometre buffer. The extent of the local government’s UFFMA is available from the website of the Department of Environment and Science (DES) as localised maps


Outside an UFFMA, local governments require a flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP) available from the 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.


This Statement of Management Intent (SoMI) articulates:

- the approach the Council intends to take with respect to roost management across the UFFMA,
- any rationale the Council considers appropriate to declare and
- any specific plans Council has in relation to roost management.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this SoMI is to articulate the approach that *North Burnett Regional Council* will take to the management of flying-fox roosts in the *North Burnett region*.

3. Location of the UFFMA in North Burnett region

The North Burnett’s UFFMA is defined in figure 1. The UFFMA comprises general residential, community facilities, commercial and village zones as identified in the North Burnett Regional Planning Scheme together with a 400m buffer. The North Burnett Regional Planning Scheme can be downloaded from [https://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/north-burnett-planning-scheme-local-government-infrastructure-plan/](https://www.northburnett.qld.gov.au/north-burnett-planning-scheme-local-government-infrastructure-plan/)

Residents who wish to confirm/determine if their property is within the UFFMA covered by this SoMI are encouraged to download and view a map of their own property at

Figure 1 – North Burnett region UFFMA
4. Council intentions and considerations

North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) will endeavour to minimise the direct impacts of flying-foxes on residents. Direct impacts can vary depending upon the size of a roost and land use. Roosts close to occupied buildings where people live, work or congregate for a prolong period as nominated in Table 1 will be classified as having a direct impact.

Table 1 – Buffer distance to flying-fox roosts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roost Population</th>
<th>Buffer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;5,000</td>
<td>20m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 - 10,000</td>
<td>30m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000 – 100,000</td>
<td>50m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,000 – 500,000</td>
<td>100m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;500,000</td>
<td>200m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flying-fox roost management in a UFFMA may involve one or more techniques including maintenance of separation buffers or dispersal. There is no guarantee that any adopted course of action will be effective as flying-foxes by their very nature will often return to the same roost location. Dispersal may simply move a flying-fox roost a short distance where the community may experience a greater impact.

North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) will coordinate the management of flying fox roosts in an UFFMA on:
- Council owned land;
- State land placed under the control of Council pursuant to the Land Act 1994 within and outside the UFFMA;
- State land in conjunction with the relevant Department;
- On private land with agreement with the owner and/or occupier;

Outside the UFFMA, Council will provide information and assist in the application process for a FFRMP to DES.

The cost of flying-fox management in an UFFMA can be significant. In instances when the flying-fox roost is on private land(s), Council will work with the relevant landholder to manage the flying fox roost. Costs relating to the management of the flying fox roost on private land will be the responsibility of both Council and landholder as apportioned in Table 2.

Table 1 – Buffer distance to flying-
NBRC is committed to engaging and working with its community in relation to the management of flying-foxes. NBRC welcomes community participation (including a call for volunteers should the need arise) and feedback on what the community perceives is an appropriate balance for managing flying-foxes in the North Burnett region.

Where community participation occurs in relation to NBRC’s flying-fox management actions, members of the community must comply with all legislative requirements including this SoMI and any NBRC instructions and/or procedures/requirements, especially the Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts.

If at any time during dispersal or roost modification/destruction activities any flying foxes appear to/or have become injured or killed, the community member must immediately notify NBRC, who will immediately cease all management actions and notify the DES.

When considering if any and types of actions to be taken, Council will consider the following:

- The location and scale of any roost including species, number and lifecycle
- Land use pattern and buffer distances to residents and community infrastructure
- The frequency and length of time that a roost has been present at a particular site
- Risks associated with any proposed action including migration of the roost into residential areas, hospitals or schools
- Current resources of Council with community support to undertake any proposed action
- The wellbeing impacts and concerns of nearby businesses and residents, including impacts of any proposed actions
- Risks to human health and animal health, including any proposed actions
- Immunisation status of residents who may be considered at risk
- Land tenure including ownership and occupancy of the land
- Cost of proposed actions and source of funding
- Whether all flying foxes are capable of independent flight
- Whether the proposed action may cause harm to flying foxes including weather conditions
- Availability of veterinarians or wildlife carers to assist with any proposed action
- If grey-headed flying foxes are present do the proposed actions meet the “Referral guideline in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps” EPBC Act Policy Statement, September 2015.

An attempt by anyone other than a local government to manage or disperse a flying-fox roost requires a separate flying-fox roost management permit (FFRMP) issued by DES. Anyone (including NBRC) operating outside the Code of Practice or without a FFRMP is not authorised and this may have legal consequences. Unauthorised actions could breach sections of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Should any flying-foxes have dependant young or be about to give birth, NBRC will not conduct any dispersal or roost destruction/modification activities except where there is a direct impact upon the community (Table 1).

Only authorised personnel (NBRC or other) shall handle orphaned, injured and/or dead flying-foxes. Orphaned and injured flying-foxes shall be assessed and treated by suitably qualified and experienced personnel (such a veterinarian). Potentially viable orphaned/injured flying-foxes shall attempt to be “re-homed” with suitably qualified/experienced wildlife carers until such time that they may be released to the wild.

5. Further information
Enquiries regarding this SoMI or roost management activities may be directed to Council’s Planning and Environment Section by telephone 1300 696 272 or by email to admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au

6. Approved

Rachel Cooper
Chief Executive Officer
North Burnett Regional Council
Date: 15 January 2020