

**FLYING FOX COLONY MANAGEMENT**

**Intent** This policy is intended to outline Cairns Regional Council's position concerning flying fox management within designated urban areas in accordance with relevant legislation.

**Scope** The scope of this policy is limited to management actions to control or mitigate flying fox roosts with the Cairns LGA. All management options considered by Council will be in accordance with the relevant codes of practice issued by the Department of Environment and Science as follows:

- The Code of Practice – Ecological sustainable management of flying fox roosts.
- The Code of Practice – Low impact activities affecting flying fox roosts.
- Flying fox roost management guidelines.

**PROVISIONS**

Cairns Regional Council acknowledges that:

- Flying foxes are an important part of the natural environment and play a significant role in the pollination and seed dispersal of natural vegetation;
- A balanced approach will be taken when managing flying fox roosts which considers the needs and expectations of the community with the welfare and unpredictable behaviours of the animals themselves;
- However, the health and wellbeing of people is to be given primary consideration over the health and wellbeing of flying foxes, where there is conflict between the two;
- Flying foxes will not be culled and only non-lethal methods of dispersal will be used.

The following principles will be considered as part of every colony relocation decision:

- Location of the flying fox roost;
- Environmental impact;
- Welfare of the animal;
- Public amenity;
- Community health and safety;
- Appropriate consultation being undertaken;
- Sufficient resources and funding being available to carry out the management activity.

Council actions (non-Council land):

- Council may provide basic advice and information to the public regarding the appropriate management of flying foxes on non-Council land.
- Residents may be directed to the Department of Environment and Science to apply for a permit to undertake management on non-Council land.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

Council will adhere to an adopted Code of Practice which focuses on how management activities will be conducted.

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**This policy is to remain in force until otherwise determined by Council.**

**Director Responsible for Review:**

**Lifestyle and Community**

**ORIGINALLY ADOPTED: 18/12/2013  
CURRENT ADOPTION: 16/11/2022  
DUE FOR REVISION: 16/11/2026  
REVOKED/SUPERSEDED:**



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**Mica Martin  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**