Our Cairns – Responses to Flying Foxes – Other Category

OTHER

They are very tasty

Let city people put up with them, just like rural people have to!!

I don't really care and I don't understand why this issue receives so much attention. Get over it and focus on something that's actually important!

If the do-gooders want to have them around then let them go to the Jardine at the top end and they can see them every night.

SAFETY / HEALTH CONCERNS

Not sure. They are a concern for public safety but I care about animals and don't want them to be harmed

They should be closely monitored and if they become a health risk then that should be managed specifically

ERADICATE THEM

They should be eradicated and the Council should lobby the state government for the removal of environmental laws protecting bats.

Get rid of them !!! One got me in the eye and 6 months later still have real problems !!!

They are a pest.

Flying Foxes are pests! Eradicate them as they are a threat to health and they are not endangered.

NEED A BALANCED MANAGEMENT APPROACH – MANAGE THEM

Moderation

I'm not sure but maybe try moving them to unpopulated areas where they can make there noise and mess and not bother anyone

They should be in the CBD but their numbers need to be reduced to natural proportions. There are no natural predators in the CBD!

There should be a balance between protecting the species and managing them

Council should be able to manage the current population as they deem necessary.

Should be managed and monitored, but not at the expense of trees
the forest surrounding Cairns rely on the fruit bat, these animals if taken out of the area will not produce the rain forest which the world comes here to see and enjoy. The bats should be gradually removed into the wilderness area surrounding Cairns. Difficult as it may be but eventually it can be done without exterminating them.

There needs to be a balance struck between protecting the populations and removing them from residential areas.

At the end of the day people have bought there after the bats. I think proper management with the amount of bats should be looked at and the cleaning of the bat poo be looked at as when it is wet it can be sloppy and then also smells a lot.

I think they should be left mostly alone, but some population management might be needed

We are infringing more and more on their habitat and we complain when they eat our fruit etc in our backyards. We plant their food source in our backyards and then complain because they are eating our produce and increasing in numbers. We need management but I am not an expert on these creatures.

A balanced approach which retains these native species (in proximity to the city) which are so unusual to our visiting tourists who only see micro bats in their home countries, but also with consideration to public health and potential impact to local businesses

There is still plenty of rainforest for them and Council should attempt to remove them but that is unlikely to succeed without cutting trees and there is no control over where they will go next so, manage them by restricting people and vehicles from beneath their trees, erect National Park type signs with details about their ecology and disease.

I would choose B but I would like to see council manage the effects of the bats rather than the bats themselves. Eg. Erecting covered parking under the trees where they roost to stop the loss of those parks.

Pros - good for tourists. Cons - terrible mess left on cars. Risk of lyssavirus. Manage the risks.

Should be a management program were they are causing health issues to homes.

I approve of council management where there is a problem for business or resident.

**DISPERSE THEM – SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARD**

get them out, out, out, health hazard, carry disease, & stink, stink

More should be done to actively DISPERSE them where there is NO direct impact on businesses and homes

not needed in CBD area

Should not be in the CBD
They need to be moved away - completely away from all homes and my car!!!!!!! Sorry bats, too much protection has resulted in them in being overpopulated and make a mess, not healthy for anyone. sorry but need to thin out drastically and best to move away from homes and our children.

Something needs to be done due to the negative health effects they can have on people and also the off putting sight and smell walking around the city library is quite awful

They are a wild animal which can carry disease and infections. They should be treated no different to other wild animals and managed appropriately.

They should be protected and also dispersed from the CBD as they are an important (but hazardous to health) species

Opinion between "B" and "C". Plant trees in a dedicated nearby area and relocate flying fox habitat staggered process. Partially dispersion of flying fox population by trimming of the some of the branches. Use this place as another tourist attraction.

I understand they need to be protected, and peoples business/ property/ homes also need not be impacted - I do not believe shooing them over to the residences in East Trinity is the answer :(.

While tourists love seeing flying foxes in the cbd, I dislike the mess they make and the issues they cause with air traffic

The problem is world wide. Flying foxes prefer to be in urban areas which should be obvious, as we have plenty of mountain vegetation over the inlet etc for them. It's been studied and proven, they like being near humans. So I say, just keep disturbing them.

Discourage through sound waves not chopping down trees.

I think we should be doing more to relocate them with only their best interest at heart, as we are the ones who are impeding on their space.

They are flying rats and should be exterminated. Qld Govt laws should be changed to allow this.

These are a serious threat to aviation safety in the airport area and require management.

they need to be monitored, they are one of the few animals that can cause things like hendra, ebola ect ect

**SHOULD NOT HAVE INTERFERED / FAILED**

You should not have interfered in the first place. Establish areas within the CBD where they can gather safely and where the droppings do not come into contact with pedestrians then promote their presence as a tourist attraction.

I have them in my yard at times and don't like it but council's efforts to eradicate them from the CBD failed so best leave them be unless they find a permanent solution.

Stop putting tax money into stupid solutions and lawsuits!
Stop making a mess of this. They are protected species. They have now dispersed to the esplanade. Council deliberately did the wrong thing and was fined. I have no trust in Council to manage this issue responsibly. Leave them alone.

I think the council made a very bad mistake in decimating trees around cairns. The flying foxes are a great attraction for the visitors of cairns. They should be treated as an asset not a problem. I love the bats, they are what makes cairns special.

GOING INTO RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Dispersing them from the CBD is pushing them out into the suburbs; they are harmful to pets also.

I noticed an increase in foxes being at Holloways near homes when their habitats were cut down in the CBD. More needs to be done to stop them breeding in suburban & CBD area

Get them out of Yorkeys Knob, thanks to getting rid of them in the city we how have them and i cant even use my outdoor area due to bat shit

Bats should not be near residential areas in Bentley Park

I don’t think they should be able to wreck peoples home or businesses but i don’t want them moved in case they move to my place

I would prefer not to have them moved into my yard.

I don’t think they should be around homes etc, but I did notice the ones at the dog park at Brinsmead they seem to come and go.

Sure, actively manage and disperse them, but not in other people's back yards.

When u tried 2 eradicate them from the city, we got bombed with them, we have payed almost 2 grand 2 to take away our beautiful trees because our yard, vegie garden and my kids playground were getting covered in poisonous bat crap.

Dispersal of flying foxes in the CBD has led to a greater increase in the Northern Beaches population, especially on the beaches themselves. The smell of bat faeces is disgusting.

They should have been left in the CBD. The tourists like them, there is not as much residential houses around, mainly businesses. in the past two years we have had an influx of bats in the area. They sleep around the Kewarra beach resort and at dusk they move upwards towards the residential areas. Not good.

I have seen an increase in Bentley Park. Have had them poop on washing in the early evenings and therefore the clothing has been ruined. I do think more needs to be done but what I am unsure

Have noticed they are moving into my area when there never used to be any. We have had one fly inside our house and one crash into our house. Didn’t think they could do that maybe they were sick with the virus? I don’t want them near my home and children
By leaving the colony in the CBD it reduces the impact in the suburbs as each time there has been action to move Them on they have collected and reside in colonies along creeks at our back doors. They isn’t a sustainable option to keep large colonies at ones back door

They are a nuisance in city, but getting rid of the trees in the city only disperses them out into the suburbs and moves the problem out there

**TOURIST ATTRACTION**

I think they should be trained to go somewhere away from city and people places but somewhere close so tourists can see them. They are really fascinating hanging in the trees and flying around at night they are quite a tourist attraction Not sure how this could be done.

With regards to the population near the city library, I can’t see why a covered walkway couldn’t be installed under the trees. The bats are a feature of the city, and as long as they pose no immediate danger to the public, they should be allowed to remain.

Take a look at Fraser coast - they have info boards and educate the public and visitors on the bats, along with viewing platforms and areas for photography. After all we are a nature paradise and this should be not only protected but utilised

I think the council made a very bad mistake in decimating trees around cairns. The flying foxes are a great attraction for the visitors of cairns. They should be treated as an asset not a problem. I love the bats, they are what makes cairns special.

Very popular tourist attraction - maintain existing populations & provide information regarding not handling them.

They are popular with tourists, but do smell and do damage to parked cars and surrounding business, so maybe netting canopy over surrounding streets leaving the bat park open for the bats.

A does not need selecting – it’s a national requirement to do exactly that. The question is not formulated correctly since B, C, D and E answers all relate to flying foxes - in the CBD. So my answer is that the existing population in Cairns CBD should be left and council should not leave them with minimal management - but start treating it for what it is - a tourist attraction. Clever architecture needs to be applied, not pest control...

I believe there needs to be proper management and reduction of habitat loss but I believe populations in the CBD need to be maintained in key areas where visitors (our bread and butter!) can appreciate one of our wildlife opportunities. Covered walkways or car parks could be constructed in key areas where their droppings have become an issue (Library site for example) Clearly all efforts so far have failed and we have lost many magnificent trees in the misguided council approach to date!

The colonies are important but more should be done to manage their impact on the surrounds profit from them by building viewing platforms. Stop cutting the trees as Cairns is becoming unattractive. Moving the bats on is stupid as they just go elsewhere so capitalise on the asset.
They are a threatened species of huge natural importance to the local ecosystem and our native forests are threatened as a result of their declining populations. Land clearing and farming and other human activities have directly impacted on their native habitat and forced them to become more visible and active in populated areas. This is a natural result of the way their habitat has diminished and I think there are ways that council can approach this that doesn’t divide the community or threaten the animals. For example, they are a huge attraction for tourists. Maybe design roofed walkways through nesting/roosting areas in the CBD that allow people/tourists to walk amongst them and take photographs and enjoy the proximity to nature rather than focus on removing them and destroying the large trees in the CBD and parklands in an unsuccessful attempt after unsuccessful attempt to move them on.

PROTECT THEM

You are in their habitat! Leave them alone, stop trying to control nature!

They should be protected as a species, and are a tourist drawcard in the evenings, however they leave an unsightly mess and smell quite bad, therefore posing a risk to the health of the community.

More should be done to protect them including promoting opportunities for local and tourist appreciation.

Use their populations as a tourist attraction and protect them. Plant trees for them and/or preserve their habitat. Development on the beaches has destroyed their habitats.

They should be respected, but maintained. As long as it doesn't affect anyone, leave them be.

More should be done to find alternative arrangements to work around the flying foxes, leaving them alone but making the area clean and safe for people

I agree they should not be near the CBD. Having said that, they need to be protected elsewhere. They are easy to relocate without destruction.

They are part of the wet tropics. They should only be moved on if their present a serious health problem. I believe bats mainly defecate where they sleep rather than where they feed, so explore possible benign methods of management/population control

They should be fully protected by council and their current habitat should not be destroyed for further building ventures.

This is a poorly written survey which is guaranteed to give you skewed results. This question has one option in favour of bats and two against. This might be considered accidental bias except for this Council’s public history of breaking laws to get rid of bats

PROVIDE OTHER TREES / HABITAT

How about planting more trees in a corridor so the bats can travel to areas where they won't be a problem to residents
the council should set areas aside for them where they are not impacting. Set up a sanctuary - appeases all. Dispersion stupid - just moves problem around (out to Redlynch!) and other areas. Why not harness tourism benefit. kick anybody out from their home they have to go somewhere.

provide a new home. eg old rubbish tip, or somewhere out ray Jones Drive area not under flight paths

Let's plant more trees throughout the city so the population can disperse.

Identify the trees they are attracted to and create a plantation they can be attracted to. Then perhaps replace the trees in the CBD and homes where they habitat with a different variety.

Provide roosting & food plants areas away from populates areas

In the long run, make sure there are nearby places for them to hang out - stop cutting down useful habitat.

I suggest a program of planting trees in areas that are more user friendly. I don’t believe owners of cars and businesses should be getting crap on them. That's not to say that I don't respect or understand their environmental place, however man before animal

**CLEAN UP AREA**

The exteriors of the city library buildings (& maybe surrounds) should be cleaned of bat excrement at least weekly.

I think proper management with the amount of bats should be looked at and the cleaning of the bat poo be looked at as when it is wet it can be sloppy and then also smells a lot.

**DON'T KNOW SOLUTION**

Hard to say what the right solution is

Its a lose/lose.... I want them protected but understand frustrations of businesses in the area. They are victims of their own environment...

I'm not sure what the answer is - I'm not thrilled with the disease they carry so don't want to be bitten but I'm not worried about them flying around

I understand something needs to be done but don’t know enough about it to make an educated decision.

I'm not sure what should be done. They are a native species and therefore need to be protected, but I do feel for the businesses impacted by having them in the CBD.

I don’t know enough about them to have an informed opinion. The only affect they have on me is they limit where I can park my car when in the parts of town where they reside.

I would need more information to decide.
I don't know enough about it to say. I'm guessing it's complex. If you try to move them where they are a problem, they probably just cause a problem elsewhere?

**DON'T CUT TREES**

It is fine for Council to actively manage and disperse them where there is a direct impact on businesses and homes PROVIDED Council does not cut down trees.

The current population is about right. Next time can you get rid of the huge numbers without chopping down trees.

Plant more trees. Not only do the flying foxes need trees, so do the birds. Stop chopping down the trees.