

Clarence Valley Council
FLYING FOX DISPERSAL COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY COMMENCING 10:00 AM AT THE MACLEAN COMMITTEE ROOM
MINUTES

Attendance:

Councillor Andrew Baker; Des Schroder, Director Environment, Planning & Community; Reece Luxton, NRM & Projects Coordinator, Heather Mitchell, Project Officer (NRM); Ron & Dianne Browning; Edwina Cameron; Denise Worrill and David Andrighetto, Geolink Consultants

Item		Discussion/ Comments	Reporting Officer	Actions	Action Officer
01	Welcome to Country		Des Schroder		
02	Introduction				
03	Apologies	Kevin Hogan MP, Jason Thompson, Chris Gulaptis MP, Cr Debrah Novak and Denise Worrill		Accepted	
04	Confirmation of minutes of meeting held 30 October 2017	Accepted			
05	Presentation	David Andrighetto from Geolink presented the draft update to the Maclean Flying-fox strategy. The update was funded through the LGNSW Flying-fox grants, out of an action from 30 October meeting recommending reviewing the strategy. See attached report by Geolink.			

06	Business Arising – Feedback on the draft strategy	The committee was presented with the updated actions. The discussion focussed on maintaining buffers for sensitive receivers and looking for funding to buy back affected residences. Sourcing funding for air-conditioning the gym at the High School was also discussed.		Committee recommends reviewing the completed draft of the strategy at the next meeting.	
07	General Business	None			
08	Date time and venue for next meeting	11.00 am Thursday, 21 June 2018			
09	Meeting Close	11:45am			

Table 1 Suggested Short-term Management Action 2018-2023

Management option	Management Details	Priority
Level 1 actions		
Education and awareness programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with existing education strategies. • Create links on Council and MHS websites with OEH and Department of Health websites in relation to flying-fox information. • Provide 'living with flying-foxes' information/link on Council website. • Support education strategies for Maclean High School (including current and prospective students). • Target information at new residents (eg. residential developments off Kerry Street). 	High
Routine camp management: Maintain existing buffers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing buffers around school buildings at Maclean High School and residents. • Extend active buffer maintenance to include Kerry Street residence. • Adopt 'Standard management measures' and 'Stop Work Triggers' as per the OEH Camp Management Plan template to minimise animal welfare impacts during works. 	High
Routine camp management: Regenerate MRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue on ground weed control to assist regeneration of MRR to increasing the flying-fox roosting carrying capacity of the reserve. • Secure long-term funding for ongoing weed management (additional resources {funding} required to get on top of vine weed infestation). • Adopt 'Standard management measures' and 'Stop Work Triggers' as per the OEH Camp Management Plan template to minimise animal welfare impacts during works. 	High
Alternative habitat creation: Extend MRR via revegetation and manage low conflict habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue rehabilitation works at Ulmarra Street road reserve and the foreshore to the south of Maclean Nature Reserve. • Extend bush regeneration to the foreshore (crownland) to the north of Maclean Nature Reserve. • Secure long-term funding for ongoing rehabilitation works (additional resources {funding} required to get on top of vine weed infestation). 	High

Management option	Management Details	Priority
<p>Property modification: Maclean High School</p>	<p>Additional locations where infrastructure could help reduce flying-fox conflicts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covering the basketball court. • Covered car park. • Covering the walkway between the carpark and buildings. • Air conditioning and double glazed windows at the gymnasium. 	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Property modification: residential buildings</p>	<p>Support residents (in DA process) in property modification options, potentially includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air conditioning (with solar panels/battery storage); • construction of carports, paved areas or cover areas affected by droppings; • construct sound barriers; • purchase clothes dryers; • install acoustic batts; and • laminate or double glaze windows. <p>Liaise with funding bodies in relation to grant application for the modifications.</p> <p><i>Note: Approximately 28 residences occur within 100m of the core camp footprint (see yellow highlight).</i></p>	<p>High</p>
<p>Access management</p>	<p>Investigate access re-direction options along the utilities walkway (Cameron Street to Jubilee Street) to avoid camp disturbances and associated impacts to residents (particularly noise).</p> <p>Consider closing the walkway (at least temporary) when the subject gully area is occupied (particularly during the breeding season).</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>Alternative habitat creation: Identification of additional/ alternative areas for habitat</p>	<p>Identify alternative flying-fox habitat to revegetate that is not located near sensitive receivers. Alternative habitat must meet flying-fox roost site criteria. Site selection should focus on land within 5 km of the Maclean flying-fox camp.</p> <p>Secure funding and land tenure agreements (if required) at identified site/s.</p> <p><i>Note: OEH is currently funding projects looking at flying-fox roosting habitat requirements. This may be relevant to Maclean.</i></p>	<p>Medium</p>

Management option	Management Details	Priority
Alternative habitat creation: Provision of alternative habitat	Provision of revegetation works to create alternative flying-fox habitat identified through the action above.	Medium
Voluntary buy back of houses	Council to continue investigating options to purchase properties off willing landholders that are directly affected by flying-foxes and then sell these houses to landholders that wish to live adjacent to flying-foxes or use the land to extend flying-fox habitat.	Medium
Ecotourism	Promote ecotourism via installation of a viewing platform, undertake guided walks, install interpretive signage and provide information sheets to focus on the positive aspects of the flying-fox camp whilst generating revenue.	Low
Protocols to manage incidents	<p>In consultation with relevant landholders and community groups, Council to identify roles and responsibilities in developing an emergency response procedure for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New, splinter and/ or emerging camps. • Adverse weather events e.g. bushfire threat, flood or storm, extreme heat events leading to flying-foxes changing their behaviour and/ or dying). Council are familiar with and use http://www.animalecologylab.org/ff-heat-stress-forecaster.html. <p>Scheduled and/or emergency response to infrastructure maintenance associated near to or within a flying-fox camp. The procedure would outline possible issues, and how Council would address them e.g. out of hours, who to contact internally and externally to help respond.</p>	\$

Management option	Management Details	Priority
Service subsidies for property cleaning equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to investigate the purchase and management off a high-pressure cleaner to be provided/ rented to affected residents to clean driveways/ verandas etc affected by faecal drop. • Investigate opportunities to exempt residents affected by flying-fox faecal drop from water restrictions to allow cleaning of essential pathways and structures. 	High
Level 2 actions		
Buffers through vegetation removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within 5 m of Maclean High School gymnasium and southern block (opposite Maclean Nature Reserve). - Overhanging Cameron Street and associated walkway. - Within 5 m of residences (only one property where this is required was identified). <i>Note: while this option does not directly impact on the recorded camp footprint, it will help mitigate impacts should shifts in the roost footprint occur.</i> • Adopt 'Standard management measures' and 'Stop Work Triggers' as per the OEH Camp Management Plan template to minimise animal welfare impacts during works. 	Medium
Buffers without vegetation removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of targeted flying-fox deterrent devices (i.e. sprinklers in vegetation canopy) at targeted sensitive residents and locations at Maclean High School with the aim of maintaining a minimum 15-20 m buffer between buildings and roosting flying-foxes, without pushing the camp into close proximity with other sensitive receivers. • Sprinklers can be placed on automatic timers to activate periodically (eg. during HSC exams at the Maclean High School gymnasium). • Adopt 'Standard management measures' and 'Stop Work Triggers' as per the OEH Camp Management Plan template to minimise animal welfare impacts during works. 	Medium