



### GREY-HEADED FLYING-FOX

*Pteropus poliocephalus*

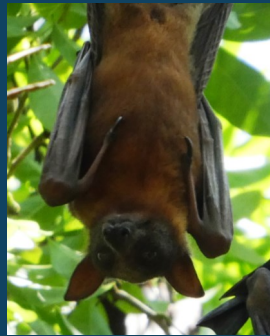
- Rusty-red or orange coloured collar that extends all the way around the neck and under the chin, grey head

- Fur extends down the legs to the toes (bare lower legs in the other species)

### BLACK FLYING-FOX

*Pteropus alecto*

- Almost completely black, if present, rusty-red collar does not extend to the front of the neck
- Rounded ears (pointy in the other species)



### LITTLE RED FLYING-FOX

*Pteropus scapulatus*

- Reddish-brown coloured fur and distinct red colour to wings and nails
- Smallest of the three species

- Tendency to roost close to each other on lower branches of trees
- May have a sickly sweet smell (compared to the other species, which are more pungent)

## FLYING-FOXES IN THE CLARENCE VALLEY

Our online *Flying-foxes in the Clarence Valley* page will let you pin-point a new flying-fox camp location on a map. You'll also be able to add your own story, interact via the Q & A and keep updated on flying-fox news in the Clarence.

[www.clarenceconversations.com.au/flyingfoxes](http://www.clarenceconversations.com.au/flyingfoxes)



## INJURED, SICK OR ORPHANED BATS

If you suspect a flying-fox needs help, please contact WIRES on 1300 094 737. Experienced and trained handlers will advise what should be done to help the flying-fox.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW

*This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government and supported by Local Government NSW*

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# FLYING-FOXES

IN YOUR

# BACKYARD



## FLYING-FOXES ARE INTEGRAL TO FOREST ECOLOGY

Flying-foxes feed on the nectar and pollen of native flowers and fruits. As a result, they benefit the health of vegetation by spreading seeds and pollinating native plants.

## THREATS TO FLYING-FOXES

All three species of flying-fox that occur in NSW are protected under the Biodiversity Conservation (BC) Act 2016. The grey-headed flying-fox is also listed as vulnerable under the BC Act and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, due to a rapid decline in numbers. Their decline is due to:

- Competition with humans for prime coastal habitat
- Habitat loss and modification resulting in removal of sleeping and breeding sites, as well as limitation of natural food resources
- Culling by humans when negative interactions occur
- Extreme heat events



For further information, go online and search 'Clarence Valley Council flying-foxes'

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Flying-foxes are increasingly moving into urban areas in search of food and shelter, due to the loss of their natural habitat. This can sometimes cause conflict between flying-foxes and local residents, because of concerns about health and amenity impacts. When flying-foxes are present in large numbers, their noise and smell can be a nuisance for residents.

There are some simple measures that the community can take to minimise conflict when they are living close to a flying-fox camp:

- ✓ **Don't disturb the flying-foxes** as this causes them to become stressed, in turn resulting in squabbling and associated noise. They are quietest when left alone.
- ✓ Flying-foxes roost in tall vegetation and so may be deterred by **trimming and removing branches** from around houses or public buildings (subject to approval from the NSW Government if flying-foxes are present).
- ✓ **Plant low vegetation (shrubs)** to act as a buffer, providing a screen between your residence and the flying-foxes.
- ✓ **Create additional habitat** by planting food trees preferred by flying-foxes away from houses and orchards.
- ✓ **Install properly constructed netting** to protect fruit crops.

It is illegal to harm individuals or their camp habitat without necessary approvals. This includes the production of excessive noise, which may result in disturbance of the camp. Direct disturbance reports or vegetation trimming requests to the NSW Government Environment Line (131 555).



## NO TOUCH, NO RISK!

Flying-foxes are known to carry two infections which can pose a serious risk to human health – Australian bat lyssavirus and Hendra virus. Human infections are very rare and the public health risk is negligible when there is no handling or direct contact with flying foxes. Never touch or approach a flying-fox.

If you have been bitten or scratched, wash the wound immediately with soap and water, apply antiseptic and seek medical attention.

If you must dispose of a dead flying-fox, wear thick gloves and wrap it in a plastic bag before disposal in your garbage bin. Wash your hands thoroughly afterwards.

To reduce infection of pet horses by Hendra virus keep water sheltered and separate horses from paddocks where fruit trees are visited by flying-foxes.