Batemans Bay Grey-headed Flying-fox Management Plan:

Supplement August 2016



Contents

Purpos	e	1
Context	t	1
EPBC A	ct conservation agreement	2
Council	resourcing for flying-fox management	2
Net ber	nefits of flying-fox management to the community and biodiversity	3
1.	Enhanced habitat for biodiversity	4
2.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes	5
3.	Regional flying-fox conservation and their ecosystem services	6
4.	Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp	6
5.	Improved public perception of flying-foxes	8
Conclus	sion	8
	DIX A: Batemans flying-fox camp based on the maximum extent nced in April 2016	14
APPENE	DIX B: Roosting habitat available near Batemans Bay Bay	15

Purpose

This supplement to the *Water Gardens Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015* and *Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019* sets out management principles and actions to support a conservation agreement under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). It demonstrates the net benefits to Grey-headed Flying-foxes of implementing the camp management plan as well as the benefits to residents of Batemans Bay, NSW.

Context

This supplement should be read in conjunction with the *Water Gardens Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015* and the *Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019* (both plans are available on Eurobodalla Shire Council's website).

The Batemans Bay camp is a nationally-important Grey-headed Flying-fox camp, as defined in the Australian Government's Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps September 2015, because it has contained \geq 10,000 grey-headed flying-foxes in more than one year in the last 10 years.

To minimise the conflict between flying-foxes and nearby residents, Council adopted the *Water Gardens Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015*, developed by ecologists and an independent panel of experts and community members. The unprecedented increase in the numbers of flying-foxes roosting in Batemans Bay in 2016 resulted in negative impacts particularly on residents near the camp.

Council sought assistance from the NSW and Australian Governments in May 2016 to assist with the management of the unprecedented number of flying-foxes at the Batemans Bay camp and both governments were supportive. The NSW Government committed \$2.5 million to facilitate dispersal of the flying-foxes at Batemans Bay. The Australian Government committed to:

- a National Interest Exemption to undertake dispersal and vegetation management in 2016.
- \$50,000 towards flying-fox research via the Department's National Environmental Science Programme.
- working with Council towards a conservation agreement by 31 December 2016.
- providing a Green Army team in 2017.

Council applied to the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) under Section 91 of the NSW *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) to modify vegetation around the flying-fox camp, and to disperse flying foxes in accordance with the *Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019*. NSW OEH issued

Council with certificates under s95 of the TSC Act (available on NSW OEH's website) stating the actions could proceed with conditions.

A National Interest Exemption under the EPBC Act was granted by the then Federal Minister for the Environment on 17 May 2016. This meant that Council could disperse flying-foxes until 1 August 2016 and vegetation management associated with the dispersal until 31 December 2016. An expectation of the National Interest Exemption is that Council enters into a conservation agreement under the EPBC Act for the conservation of Flying-foxes at Batemans Bay. Council has worked closely with the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to ensure the flying-fox management actions described in this supplement provide a net benefit to the species, avoid significant impacts, and are consistent with current Departmental planning, policy and research for flying foxes.

The EPBC Act Matters of National Environmental Significance: Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 and the Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps September 2015 provide guidance and threshold indicators for activities that may have adverse impacts. Council carefully considered these guidelines when developing the camp management and dispersal plans. The dispersal plan addresses the required elements listed in the referral guidelines.

EPBC Act conservation agreement

An EPBC Act conservation agreement is an agreement between the Australian Government Environment Minister and another person for the protection and conservation of biodiversity. The agreement must result in a net benefit to the conservation of biodiversity and not be inconsistent with a recovery plan, threat abatement plan or wildlife conservation plan. Relevant approved conservation advices for listed threatened species and communities must also be considered. A conservation agreement may also include a declaration that certain actions do not need approval under Part 9 of the EPBC Act, where the Minister is satisfied that those actions will not have a significant impact on a protected matter.

Council resourcing for flying-fox management

Flying-fox management in Batemans Bay is described in the Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015 and the Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019. Council agreed to extend camp management actions to Catalina on 26 April 2016.

To provide regional strategic leadership on flying fox conservation and camp management, Council will develop and implement a flying-fox management plan for the Eurobodalla Shire so that appropriate strategic planning achieves the mitigation and outcomes outlined in the Department's *Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps September 2015*. The Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan will include both long-term and short-term strategies for ameliorating conflict between humans and flying-foxes and conserving the flying-fox population, their habitats and the ecosystem services they provide.

The plan will aim to allow Council to consistently manage conflict between flyingfoxes and humans and respond to new and increased conflicts as they arise.

Council will work with the NSW OEH and the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to prepare a Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan and, as required, negotiate a new conservation agreement, taking into account the latest relevant Australian Government policy documents including recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation advice relevant to flying-foxes. Council will work with the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to review Council's flying fox management plans, as necessary, when a National Recovery Plan for the Grey Headed Flying-fox is finalised.

Other flying-fox management actions proposed by Eurobodalla Council include:

- implement a communication strategy that includes community engagement and education.
- participate in flying-fox monitoring and research.
- provide relief to residents through subsidised services and dispersal (where necessary and in accordance with approval conditions).
- manage vegetation and enhance habitat for biodiversity.
- collaborate with other council's, agencies, land managers and community groups.
- engage a Natural Resources Officer- Flying-foxes, as required, to facilitate flying-fox management.

Table 1 details Council's flying-fox management actions and how each action will benefit the community and biodiversity.

Net benefits of flying-fox management to the community and biodiversity

Table 1 summarises the key management actions contained in the camp management and dispersal plans, along with actions identified in this supplement that provide conservation benefits to the Grey-headed Flying-fox camp at Batemans Bay. The specific benefits to flying-foxes and the community have been clustered into the following five categories and each is discussed in more detail below:

- 1. Enhanced habitat for biodiversity
- 2. Reduced impacts to flying-foxes
- 3. Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services
- 4. Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp
- 5. Improved public perception of flying-foxes

Figure 1 lists the specific benefits to the community and biodiversity and Table 1 summarises which management actions would result in these net benefits. The Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan will detail how management actions referred to in this supplement will be implemented in a strategic and consistent

manner. The Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan will take into account the latest relevant Australian Government policy documents including recovery plans, threat abatement plans and conservation advice relevant to flying-foxes.

Further details regarding the net benefits of Council's flying-fox management actions are provided in the sections below.

Reduced fire risk.

from daily activities and

maintenance activities.

throughout the Eurobodalla.

Improved likelihood of choosing

successful and cost effective.

management options that will be

Reduced disturbance to flying-foxes

Efficient Council response to flying-foxes

Community informed about flying-fox

ecology and management options.

Facilitation of flying-foxes and

humans to co-exist in close

proximity.

Benefits to the community

Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp

- Resilience during flying-fox influxes.
- Reduced instances of black-outs.
- Relief for residents and businesses in close proximity to a flying-fox camp.
- Reduced impacts such as noise, faecal droppings and smell from flying-foxes on nearby residents and businesses.

Improved public perception of flying-foxes

- Enhanced open space and natural areas for public use.
- More opportunities for eco-tourism and education.
 - Transparent and consistent approach to flying-fox management and conservation.
 - · Efficient maintenance of public space.
 - Improved access to information about management options and when they are appropriate.
 - Improved understanding of low health risks associated with Greyheaded Flying-foxes

Benefits to flying-foxes

Enhanced habitat for biodiversity

- Removal of unnatural food sources for flying-foxes eg Cocos palms.
- Enhanced and managed habitat for flying-foxes and other wildlife.

Reduced impacts to flying-foxes

- Improved wildlife care response during heat stress events
- Reduced risk of electrocution.
- Reduced risk of uncontrolled dispersal taking place.
- Reduced risk of mortality eg due to feeding on Cocos palms

Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services

- Improved flying-fox conservation
- Reduced risk of cumulative impacts to flying-foxes
- Improved community participation in flying-fox conservation.

Figure 1: Net benefits to the community and biodiversity

1. Enhanced habitat for biodiversity

Council will manage the natural features of the Water Gardens in Batemans Bay. This may include removing weeds, planting native grasses and shrubs which would provide habitat for native species other than flying-foxes such as small birds, lizards and insects.

The dispersal program will continue to be managed in accordance with the dispersal plan, however there remains a high likelihood that some flying-foxes may always return to the Batemans Bay camp. Council will therefore manage the camp based on the assumption that the flying-foxes may need to camp at this location in the future. The native vegetation where flying-foxes have been recorded roosting will continue to be managed at the Batemans Bay camp (Appendix A) and buffers maintained to

ensure the camp is not degraded over time. This will include removal of invasive species and fire mitigation measures. The area retained as potential roosting habitat will enable a flying-fox colony to change location within the available area to prevent long-term damage to vegetation. The suitable roosting habitat being retained is large enough to accommodate another large influx if this rare event occurs in the future.

Council will identify and consider options to enhance suitable flying-fox roosting habitat at low conflict sites, particularly outside of urbanised areas as part of a Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan. The dispersal plan identified alternative potential roosting habitat available near Batemans Bay (Appendix B). This will be considered for protection and enhancement. Where reasonable and feasible, Council will protect and enhance suitable, low conflict, roosting habitat that flying-foxes are recorded using in the Eurobodalla.

Council will coordinate the Green Army team supported by the Australian Government to undertake habitat management activities eg weed removal and revegetation that will have a net benefit to native species inhabiting these sites.

Achieving this net benefit to biodiversity will help to conserve the functional roles of Grey-headed Flying-foxes in seed dispersal and pollination.

2. Reduced impacts to flying-foxes

Reducing conflict and improving the public understanding of flying-foxes is likely to reduce the risk of unapproved actions undertaken by the community that might disturb or disperse flying-foxes. Unapproved actions may risk animal welfare and the likelihood of success of approved management actions.

The strategic context of the Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan would avoid multiple camp dispersals or repeated in situ management actions that are likely to result in the total loss of roosting vegetation at nationally important camp sites which may trigger significant population stress. The vegetation at the Batemans Bay flying-fox camp will continue to be managed as required in accordance with the camp management plan, noting that alternative suitable roosting habitat may be used by flying-foxes (Appendix A and B).

The extent of natural foraging habitat, which is largely in NSW State Forests and National Parks will not be reduced by Council's flying-fox management actions. Council will continue to remove some of the unnatural (and sometimes lethal) food sources such as Cocos palms within subsidised service zones.

Council will continue to work with energy providers to improve infrastructure, particularly regarding new developments, to reduce instances of electrocution of flying-foxes on power lines throughout the Eurobodalla. This has the added benefit of reducing the risk of bushfire. This will be included in the communications strategy (Table 2) that will support the Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan.

Achieving this net benefit will reduce the impact of threatening processes on Greyheaded Flying-foxes and arrest decline throughout the species' range.

3. Regional flying-fox conservation and their ecosystem services

Council will develop and implement a flying-fox management plan for the Eurobodalla Shire. The Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan will include both long-term and short-term strategies for ameliorating conflict between humans and flying-foxes and conserving the flying-fox population, their habitats and the ecosystem services they provide. Council will work with the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to review relevant flying fox management plans as necessary.

Council will engage a Natural Resources Officer-Flying-foxes, as required, to facilitate flying-fox management. Council will participate in its own monitoring program, networking with other council's (eg via the flying-fox land managers network coordinated by NSW OEH) and flying-fox research. Council will continue to work with NSW OEH and the CSIRO to monitor population trends and camp locations and extent of Grey-headed Flying-foxes in the Eurobodalla Shire.

Council will continue to participate in a modelling project being undertaken by Ecosure and NSW OEH to identify alternative suitable flying-fox roosting habitat. While still in the feasibility phase of the project, it may result in a model that could be applied elsewhere in Australia.

Council will develop procedures to ensure impacts to roosting flying-foxes are minimised during maintenance activities eg mowing, tree lopping and weed management. These procedures will align with the standard mitigation listed in the Australian Government's *Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps (September 2015)*.

Heat stress events can have high impacts on flying-foxes, especially juveniles. Council will work with NSW OEH and local wildlife carer groups during heat stress events to actively manage heat-affected flying-foxes with consideration to NSW OEH's *Code of practice for injured sick and orphaned flying-foxes*. Information collected during heat stress events may provide a better understanding of the nature and severity of these events on flying-foxes, and contribute to more effective management responses to these events.

Achieving this net benefit will help conserve the functional roles of Grey-headed Flying-foxes in seed dispersal and pollination, reduce the impact of threatening processes on Grey-headed Flying-foxes and arrest decline throughout the species' range.

4. Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp

In partnership with other land holders, Council will maintain buffers between the Batemans Bay flying-fox camp and urban areas to facilitate co-existence of humans and flying-foxes. Buffers will reduce the direct impacts associated with living near a camp (eg, smell, noise and faecal droppings).

Council will aim to establish a community Landcare Group to assist with managing the Water Gardens and potentially maintaining buffers. Buffer maintenance will include:

- mowing and slashing
- managing invasive species
- erosion and sediment control
- developing procedures to ensure impacts to roosting flying-foxes are minimised during maintenance activities

Council will continue to provide subsidised services to eligible residents. Eligibility will change in response to changes in the extent of the Batemans Bay flying-fox camp. Subsidised services may include:

- car covers
- clothes line covers
- free loan of high pressure cleaners
- removal of Cocos palms

These services provide relief for residents and businesses, particularly during periods of high numbers of flying-foxes. Removal of Cocos palms, which are an unnatural food source, reduces instances flying-foxes foraging in urban areas and the associated noise impacts on residents.

There is potential for large influxes of flying-foxes leading to the formation of splinter camps in unsuitable locations in Batemans Bay and surrounds in the future, which would trigger options for dispersal to reduce conflict and provide relief to residents, as stated in the *Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019*. The dispersal plan addresses the required elements listed in the Department's *Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps September 2015*. Implementation of a communication strategy that includes community engagement and education will help reduce the conflict during these periods (Table 2).

The strategic and careful implementation of dispersal actions by Council in Batemans Bay will continue in accordance with the dispersal plan and conditions from NSW OEH. It is difficult to predict where flying-foxes will move to but there is a large amount of alternative roosting habitat in Batemans Bay (Appendix B) and the Eurobodalla Shire. Where reasonable and feasible, Council will manage suitable, low conflict, roosting habitat that flying-foxes are recorded using in the Eurobodalla Shire.

Natural (seasonal) migration and dispersal actions undertaken by Council in 2016 resulted in flying-foxes roosting in lower conflict areas within the Batemans Bay camp. This provides interim relief to the community and less disturbance to flying-foxes. Council will continue to implement the dispersal plan, however there remains a high likelihood that some flying-foxes may always return to the Batemans Bay camp. Council is therefore implementing management actions based on the

assumption that flying-foxes may camp at this location either permanently or periodically in the future.

The Batemans Bay camp will be managed by Council while it meets the definition of a camp of national importance in the Australian Government's *Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps September 2015*. This benefits the community because potential new camps or splinter camps in unsuitable locations can be dispersed back to the Batemans Bay camp, particularly the lower conflict areas within the camp until alternate non-urbanised areas are being used by roosting flying-foxes.

Achieving this net benefit will reduce negative public attitudes of flying-foxes.

5. Improved public perception of flying-foxes

Community engagement will include community education programs that aim to reduce the potential for future conflict between the community and flying-foxes. Council will endeavour to expand community awareness and understanding of the ecological importance of flying-foxes through education programs and Council's website. A Natural Resources Officer-Flying-foxes will be appointed to facilitate community engagement and education programs as required.

These programs also aim to reduce negative public attitudes toward Grey-headed Flying- foxes and involve the community where appropriate eg, reporting new flying-fox and camp observations via Council's website or participating in Landcare groups. Education and website information will also assist residents with living near flying-foxes by providing advice on ways to manage vegetation in their backyard, providing information about services available and addressing concerns about disease and risk of health issues associated with flying-foxes.

Council will enhance the facilities at the Water Gardens in Batemans Bay. This may include planting native grasses and shrubs, lawn, seats, and installing pathways, and educational and interpretive signage. The public space could also provide opportunities for eco-tourism. Council proposes to establish a Community Landcare Group to assist in activities related to the management of the Water Gardens.

Community engagement and education programs will aim to reduce the conflict between humans and flying-foxes by increasing community acceptance.

Achieving these net benefits will also improve the standard of information available about Grey-headed Flying-foxes, increase community knowledge of the species and reduce the impact of negative public attitudes on the species.

Conclusion

Eurobodalla Shire Council will manage the Batemans Bay flying-fox camp in accordance with the *Water Gardens Grey-headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015* and the *Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019* as described in this supplement. The actions are consistent with the actions permitted under the National Interest Exemption and any actions additional to the National Interest

Exemption benefit the community and biodiversity. Council will work with the Australian Government Department of Environment and Energy to review relevant flying-fox management plans, as necessary, and when a National Recovery Plan for the Grey-headed Flying-fox is finalised. When considered in association with the commitments set out this supplement, there is a net benefit to the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the Grey-headed Flying-fox.

Table 1: Summary of actions and benefits to biodiversity and the community

	Action	Reference	Benefit category	Benefits to the community	Benefits to Biodiversity
1	Council will maintain buffer zones on Council controlled land around the Batemans Bay camp	Sections 5.4.3 of the Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015 S91 applications and s95 certificates for buffer clearing available on NSW OEH's s91 register	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Reduces impacts such as noise, faecal droppings and smell from flying-foxes on nearby residents and businesses	Reduces disturbance to flying-foxes from daily activities of nearby residents and businesses Facilitates flying-foxes and humans to co-exist in close proximity
2	Council will provide subsidised services to eligible residents	Section 5.4.1 of the Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015. Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council on 26 April 2016	Reduced impacts to people living near a flying- fox camp Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Relief for residents and businesses in close proximity to a flying-fox camp	Facilitates flying-foxes and humans to co-exist in close proximity
3	Council will assist residents and businesses with removing exotic Cocos palm trees	Section 5.4.2 of the Water Gardens Grey- headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Reduced impacts to people living near a flying- fox camp	Reduces the noise and faecal droppings impacts of foraging	Reduces the risks of mortality due to feeding on Cocos palms Removes an unnatural food source
4	Council will enhance the facilities at the Water Gardens	Section 5.4.4 of the Water Gardens Grey- headed Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015.	Enhanced habitat for biodiversity Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Provides open space for public use Provides opportunities for eco-tourism and education about flying foxes	Roosting habitat at the Batemans Bay camp is managed Provides habitat for other wildlife Community informed about flying-fox ecology
5	Council will implement dispersal actions at Batemans Bay in accordance with the dispersal plan and NSW government conditions	Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019 s91 application and s95 certificate for dispersal on NSW OEH's s91 register	Reduced impacts to people living near a flying- fox camp	Reduces impacts such as noise, faecal droppings and smell from flying-foxes on nearby residents and businesses Relief for residents and businesses in close proximity to a flying-fox camp	Reduces disturbance to flying-foxes from daily activities of nearby residents and businesses (if dispersal increases the distance between the flying-fox camp and urban areas)
6	Council will develop procedures to ensure impacts to roosting flying-foxes are minimised during maintenance activities eg mowing	Referral guideline for management actions in grey-headed and spectacled flying-fox camps (September 2015)	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Reduced impacts to people living near a flying- fox camp	Efficient maintenance of public space Provides open space for public use Reduces impacts such as noise on nearby residents and businesses	Reduces disturbance to flying-foxes maintenance activities
7	Council will provide community support, advice and education about flying-foxes	Eurobodalla Shire Council website Communication strategy (Table 2) Section 5.4.5 of the Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015.	Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Community informed about flying-fox ecology and management options Improves understanding of low health risks associated with Grey-headed Flying-foxes Resilient community, especially during flying-fox influxes	Community informed about flying-fox ecology Improves community participation in flying-fox conservation Reduces disturbance to flying-foxes from higher risk un-planned management actions such as uncontrolled dispersal
8	Council will develop a Eurobodalla flying-fox management plan in consultation with DoEE and NSW OEH and, as required, negotiate a new conservation agreement with DoEE.	Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council on 14 June 2016	Enhanced habitat for biodiversity Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Efficient Council response to flying-fox issues throughout the Eurobodalla Provides a transparent and consistent approach to flying-fox management and conservation	Reduces potential impacts to flying-foxes through strategic management Reduces cumulative impacts to flying-foxes from ad-hoc or reactive management Improves flying-fox conservation

	Action	Reference	Benefit category	Benefits to the community	Benefits to Biodiversity
9	Council will liaise with energy providers to improve infrastructure	Communication strategy (Table 2) Section 4.3.2 of <u>The Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan</u>	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services	Reduces instances of black-outs Improves community perception of flying-foxes	Reduces risk of electrocution Reduces fire risk
1	Council will work with wildlife-carer groups during heat stress events to actively manage heat-affected flying-foxes	2015 Communication strategy (Table 2) Section 4.3.3 of The Water Gardens Greyheaded Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2015	Improved public perception of flying-foxes Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services	Reduces fire risk Engages community	Improves wildlife care response during heat stress events
1	Council will collaborate with other Councils, government agencies and flying-fox experts to share information and experiences of managing flying- foxes	Flying-fox land managers network Communication strategy (Table 2)	Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Improves likelihood of choosing management options that will be successful and cost effective	Improves likelihood of choosing management options that will be successful and cost effective Reduces cumulative impacts to flying-foxes from ad-hoc or reactive management Improves flying-fox conservation
1	Eurobodalla Council will participate in flying-fox research and monitoring 2	National Flying-fox Monitoring Program Alternative flying-fox roosting habitat modelling project (Council assisting Ecosure and NSW OEH)	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Improves likelihood of choosing management options that will be successful and cost effective	Improves understanding of flying-fox ecology Improves likelihood of choosing management options that will be successful and cost effective Improves flying-fox conservation
1	Council will establish a Community Landcare Group to assist with vegetation management	Landcare program	Enhanced habitat for biodiversity Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes	Community informed about flying-fox ecology and management options Provides open space and natural areas for public use	Roosting habitat at the Batemans Bay camp is managed Improves flying-fox conservation

Table 2: Summary of proposed flying-fox management communications strategy

Stakeholder	Content of communication	Means of communication	Benefit category
Council and other government agencies	Dispersal updates on population, movements and stage of flying-fox lifecycle (via consultant ecologists).	Emails, phone calls, letters, meetings, media releases.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services
Landholders within 300m of flying-fox camps	Dispersal activities, council updates, approvals, maps, management plans, factsheets, Flying-Fox Engage, factsheets.	Council website, social media; Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, letters, face to face visits, signage, emails, messaging via SMS broadcast, business cards, media releases. Community Centre near the water gardens provides communication and educational material.	Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp Improved public perception of flying-foxes
Affected businesses/institutions	Dispersal activities, council updates, approvals, maps, management plans, factsheets.	Letters, face to face visits, signage, phone calls, emails, direct messaging via SMS broadcast, business cards, media releases.	Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp Improved public perception of flying-foxes

Stakeholder	Content of communication	Means of communication	Benefit category
Other interest parties	Dispersal activities, council updates, Reporting concerns with flying fox welfare, sick, injured, orphaned or dead flying-foxes	Emails, letters, regular phone calls, media releases.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Improved public perception of flying- foxes
Wider community Local, National and International (not directly affected by flying-foxes)	factsheets, updates, management plans	Council website and links to other websites, radio, direct mail, progress reports, messaging via SMS Broadcast, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.	Enhanced habitat for biodiversity Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Regional conservation of flying-foxes and their ecosystem services Improved public perception of flying-foxes
Eurobodalla Shire community	Community reporting of unusual flying-fox behaviour or new roosting sites	Council website has online form and phone number for reports from the community.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes Reduced impacts to people living near a flying-fox camp
Wildlife carer groups and energy providers	Management plans, approvals, maps.	Emails, letters, regular phone calls.	Reduced impacts to flying-foxes

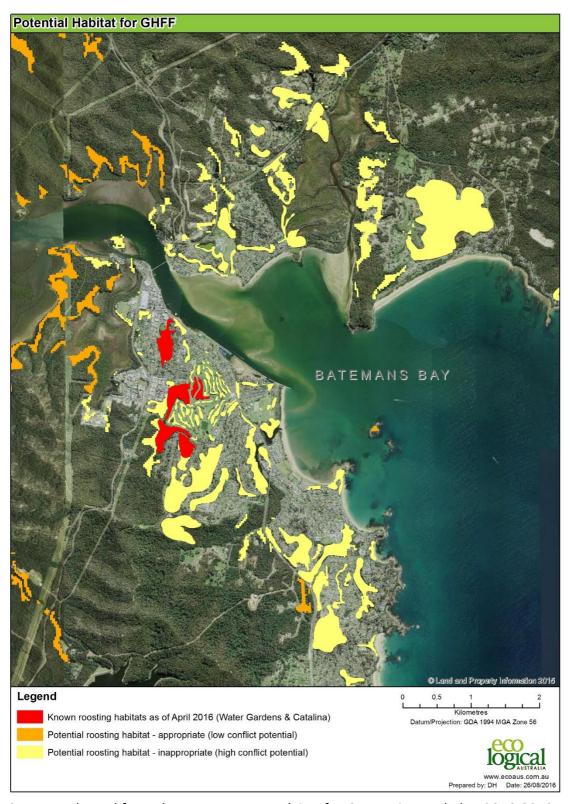
Note: Media releases go to local and regional media outlets (television, radio and newspapers) and stakeholders as listed in the table.

APPENDIX A: Batemans Bay flying-fox camp based on the maximum extent experienced in April 2016



Source: Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019

APPENDIX B: Roosting habitat available near Batemans Bay



Source: Adapted from the Batemans Bay Flying-fox Camp Dispersal Plan 2016-2019.