



Australasian Bat Society

Flying-fox Expert Group Update 2023

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About the FFEG

A primary source of reliable, accurate information on Australian flying-foxes. The FFEG comprises flying-fox specialists representing research, advocacy, government, industry, education and carer networks. The FFEG encourages a scientific and sustainable approach to flying-fox management and conservation in Australasia.

Formed in 2014 as a subcommittee by the Australasian Bat Society (ABS) Executive to assist with:

- engaging in public debate
- issues concerning flying-foxes
- ensuring the ABS' position is defensible and based on published science and expert advice.

The FFEG convenors meet with the ABS President and First VP every 6 weeks to discuss flying-fox issues, responses and actions.





FFEG overview

Issues and threats

- Weather events (drought, fires, floods and increasing storms/cyclones)
- Urban mortality – barbed wire, netting, electrocutions
- Habitat loss
- Human harassment incl dispersals and shooting
- Industry impacts e.g. wind farms



Photo credit: David White



FFEG overview

- Weather events – fire recovery grant working group, members have a range of great research projects
- Urban mortality – submissions for other states to follow Vic
- Dispersals and other management, best practice
- EPBC Act review
- Phasing out lethal DMPs in Qld
- Industry impacts – wind farms; members contributing to feedback on DAWE guidelines, tracking data comparison
- Ongoing education and engagement including Bat Nights, National Flying-fox Day





FFEG overview

Networks

- Spectacled Flying-fox Recovery Team
- Wildlife Health Australia Bat Focus Group
- National Flying-fox Forum
- Pacific Islands Bat Forum
- Fire recovery funding team
- GBatNet
- International Bat Research Conference
 - Texas and Cairns



Where to from here

Ongoing actions and engagement to support:

- reduced flying-fox-human conflict
- nationally coordinated management of flying-foxes based on scientific evidence
- conservation outcomes
- funding for research into flying-fox behaviour and ecology, and management / conservation projects
- consistent and effective community engagement and education



Image: Dave Pinson

Only by working together, using evidence-based methods, can we achieve nationally coordinated management for the benefit of both people and flying-foxes.



Thank you!

Conveners: Maree Treadwell Kerr, Jess Bracks, Sarah Curran.

President: Dr Justin Welbergen

First Vice-President: Dr Leroy Gonsalves

Advisors: Dr Tania Bishop, Dr Carol Booth, Jennifer Davis, Dr Peggy Eby, Nick Edwards, Prof Stuart Parsons, Jo Towsey, Dr David Westcott, Trish Wimberley, Kevin Pierson Bat Conservation International (Honorary member), Dr Merlin Tuttle (Honorary member).

General members: Dr John Martin, Amanda Lo Cascio, Jess Mitchell, Dr Martin Cohen, Janine Davies, Jan Davey, Naomi Downey, Caroline Greco, Una Greco, Barbie Lindsey, Jenny Maclean, Debra Melville, Sue Morris, Beth Noel, Lucy Norman, Tim Pearson, Glenda Pym, Dr Hugh Spencer, Narawan Williams, Dr Andrew Breed, Judith Hopper, Imelda Jennings, Sarah Curran, Sera Steves, Dominique Thiriet, A/prof Michelle Power, Katie Whiting

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