

Planning for Human Wildlife Conflicts



2016 Influx

- 270 000+ Grey-headed flying foxes in Batemans Bay
- Subsidised services – car and clothesline covers, high pressure washers, Cocos palm removal
- Emotional and political
- Dispersal June/July



Background

- Shire wide plan required for the Aust Govt under the conservation agreement
- Aimed to help Council to:
 - respond to community concern regarding flying foxes
 - provide a transparent framework to guide decision making
 - manage the impacts of flying foxes in ways that are economically sustainable
 - best manage known camps and future camps that establish
- Consultant engaged - Ecosure
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement completed – UTS



Community Engagement

Overseen by the Centre of Local Govt –Uni of Technology Sydney

- Interviews with experts
- Targeted workshops
- Meetings with internal Council committees
- Correspondence to community groups and associations
- Media releases and radio interviews
- Regular website updates
- Online news and Living in Eurobodalla newsletter
- Council's social media
- 12 drop-in sessions across the shire over 1 month
- Online Survey
- 3 Councillor briefings
- Written feedback

Online survey
492 completed
38 suburbs
95% confidence
level

Proximity to a flying-fox camp

How impacts are experienced. Those living closer to a camp perceive greater impact.

% Extremely concerned or very concerned	Within 300 metres	Other
Excrement/droppings	79%	54%
Smell	77%	53%
Noise	65%	68%
Fear of disease	63%	33%
Visual amenity eg damage to vegetation due to roosting	56%	31%
Damage to infrastructure such as power line	51%	37%
Flying foxes striking aircraft	33%	19%
Foraging eg eating fruit and/or flowers	45%	23%
Not being able to access areas where flying foxes camp	45%	22%

Impacts

There is a clear hierarchy of impacts the community is concerned about.

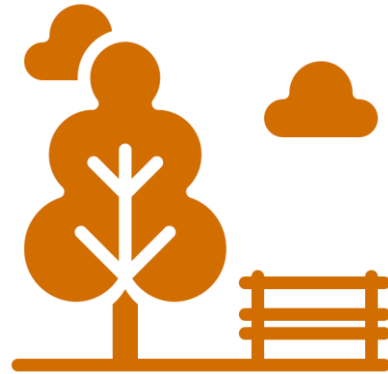
Experiential



Noise
Smell
Droppings

60%-70%

Environment and Infrastructure



Damage to vegetation from roosting
Damage to power lines

30% - 50%

Community health



Water contamination
Risk of disease to humans and animals

30% - 50%

Actions taken to reduce impacts

Actions are being taken to move flying-foxes on and **avoid** impacts, rather than **minimise** or **mitigate** impacts (i.e. 'living with flying-foxes in situ'). For other impacts people are concerned about (in particular, water contamination), most people have not done anything about it.

Action	Number	Percent
Clearing vegetation/removing food sources	61	32%
Dispersal	17	9%
Everything	16	8%
Noise	16	8%
Nothing /not sure	10	5%
Council action (unspecified)	8	4%
Buffer zones	4	2%
Education	3	2%
Other	55	29%
Total	190	100%

Preferred management actions

Community preferences for principles to underpin ongoing management actions.

Factor	%
Provides a long term solution	79%
Ensures risk of transmission of diseases stays low	73%
Reduces noise and odour impacting nearby residents/businesses	72%
Reduces impact of excrement on property	70%
Does not move camps to sites near other residents/businesses	68%
Does not degrade natural values of the site	64%
Can be implemented quickly	56%
Has low financial cost to residents and businesses near camps	52%
Does not harm the flying-foxes	50%
No negative impact on how site looks or recreational opportunities	49%
Has low financial cost to ratepayers	43%

The 'magic number'

Looking across the data, a third of the community has consistently negative views about flying-foxes

30%

Are not listening to Council information about flying foxes, don't know they are protected and don't think they should be, and don't care numbers are declining

34%

Think flying foxes should be moved on permanently, don't think Council is doing anything to manage them, and are not doing anything themselves

36%

Do not enjoy watching flying foxes or think they are a tourism opportunity

What to do about managing flying-foxes

The community ***does not*** want flying-foxes moved on permanently from Eurobodalla

54%

Do not want flying-foxes moved on permanently

52%

Think flying-foxes are important for the health and diversity of forests

54%

Do not want natural values of the camps degraded

50%

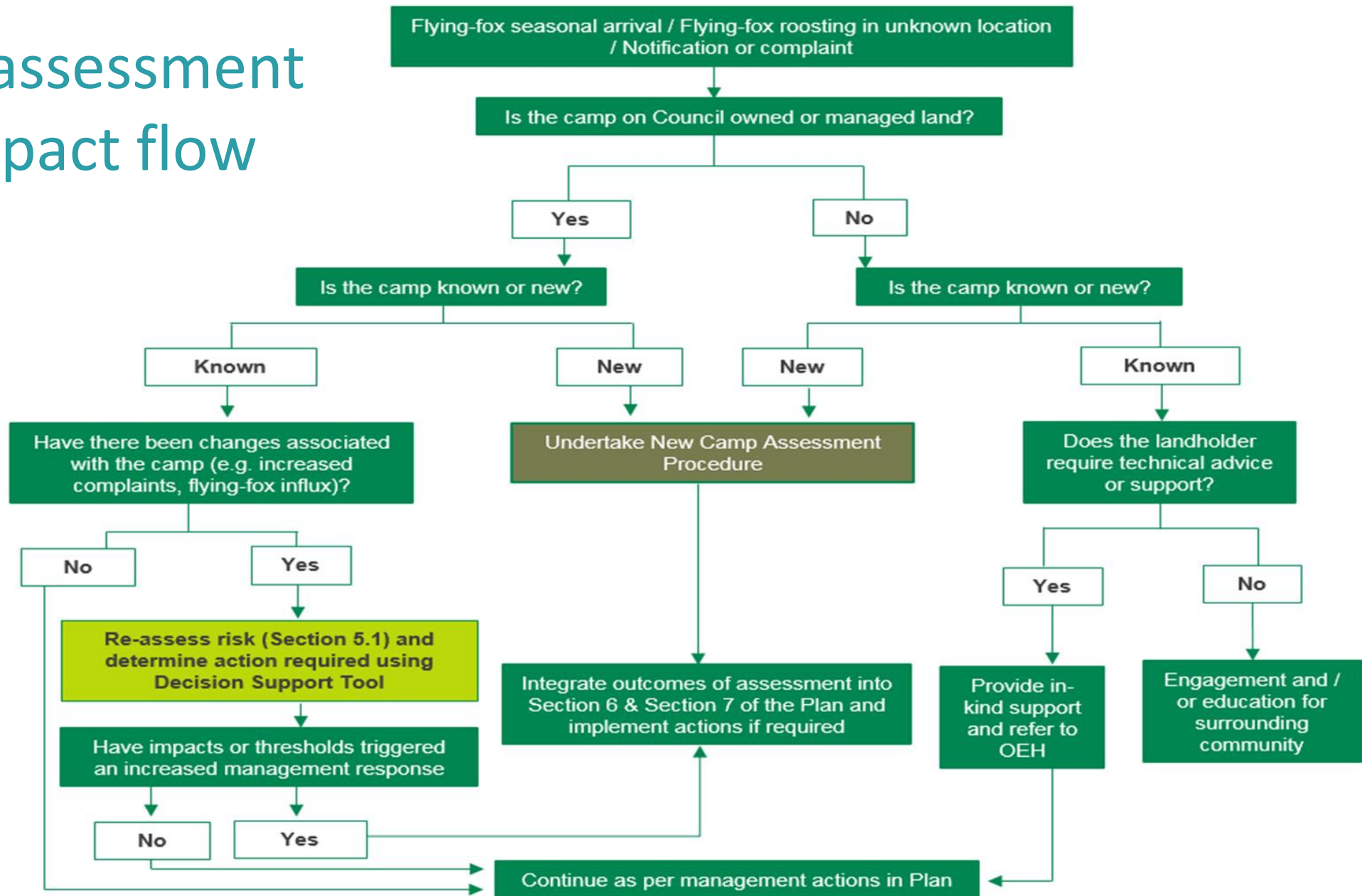
Do not want flying-foxes harmed by management actions

Work needed

- Why flying foxes are in urban area and how to encourage camps in low conflict areas
- Land managers having info on FF camps across the country
- Predict flowering and foraging – prepare for influxes
- Impacts of respiratory and mental health issues
- Water quality issues re drinking water and on crops
- How to best clean/remove poo!
- Odour mitigation
- Community education and communications strategy - should be state and national consistency with messaging
- Property modification/service subsidies
- Appropriate land-use planning
- Enhance decision support tool



Camp assessment and impact flow chart



Decision support tool

		Consequences/Considerations				
AFFECT		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Very Serious
People affected - consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive receivers • Proximity to camp • Extent of impacts 		Slight effect	Contained area, limited impacts	Major onsite	Major onsite and moderate offsite	Major onsite and major offsite
Environment - consider <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural • Ecological • Amenity 		Slight effect	Contained area, limited environmental harm	Major onsite	Major onsite and moderate offsite	Major onsite and major offsite
Financial cost		Less than \$5,000	\$5,000 - \$20,000	\$20,000 - \$100,000	\$100,000 - \$500,000	More than \$500,000
Likelihood of impact	Very high <i>Almost certain/currently occurring and likely to continue in the mid-long term</i>	M	M	H	E	E
	High <i>Known to have occurred - likely</i>	M	M	H	H	E
	Medium <i>Could occur - possible</i>	L	M	H	H	H
	Low <i>Not likely to occur - unlikely</i>	L	L	M	M	H
	Very low <i>No incidents – rare.</i>	L	L	M	M	H

KEY	
IMPACT CATEGORY	ACTIONS
E (Extreme- RED)	Level 3 Actions Immediate controls required. Provided legislative requirements met, consider dispersal if adequate and appropriate resources are available. Seek management advice. Implement education and communication strategy Implement subsidies program if appropriate Identify and implement mechanisms to reduce impacts e.g. buffers Monitor impacts
H (High – AMBER)	Level 2 Actions Implement education and communication strategy Implement subsidies program if appropriate Identify and implement mechanisms to reduce impacts e.g. buffers Monitor impacts
M (Medium – YELLOW)	Level 1 Actions Implement education and communication strategy Approval to proceed required by Manager to implement subsidies program if appropriate Monitor impacts.
L (Low – GREEN)	Level 1 Actions Generally no action required Continue to monitor the impacts