

# Flying-Fox Management Update

Queensland  
Department of  
Environment and  
Science

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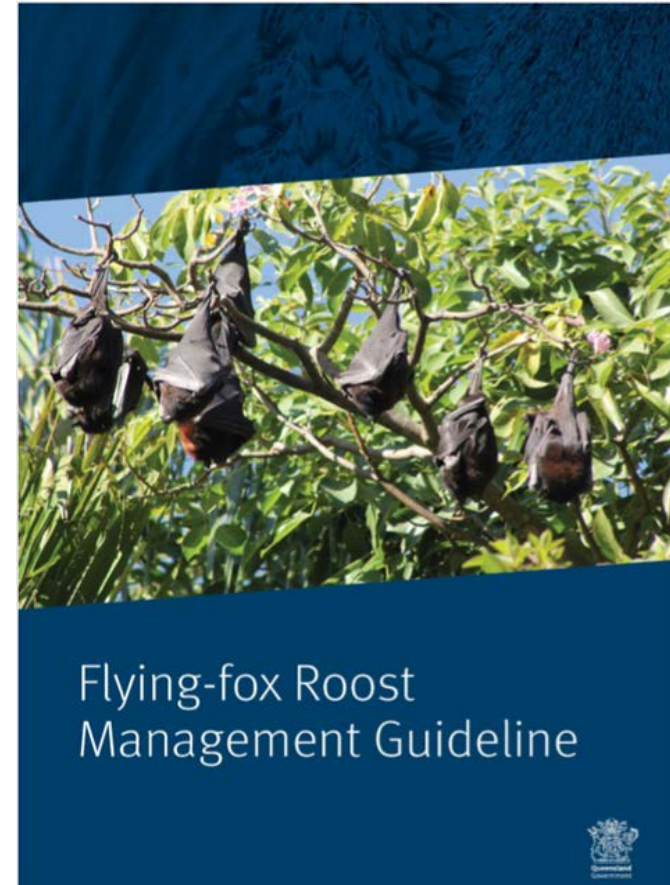
## Summary

1. Roost management framework review
2. Learnings from evaluations received so far
3. Reduce Flying-Fox Conflict Research Program 2016-20
4. Preparedness for heat stress events
5. Trial of alternative roost site at Charters Towers



# Roost Management Framework Review

- Input sought from all local governments, LGAQ, CSIRO and key conservation and animal welfare groups.
- Revised framework (20 February 2020):
  - two revised Codes of Practice;
  - new Roost Management Guideline.
- Revised Codes give greater flexibility available to councils wishing to manage roosts under their 'as-of-right' powers
- Also strengthened to minimise the risk of flying-foxes being harmed during those activities.



## Evaluation of roost management actions

- The *Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts* now requires all councils that submit a notification form for management actions to submit an evaluation summarising their outcomes and key learnings.
- 59 evaluation forms have been received since February.



# Evaluation of Code-Compliant Council Roost Management Actions

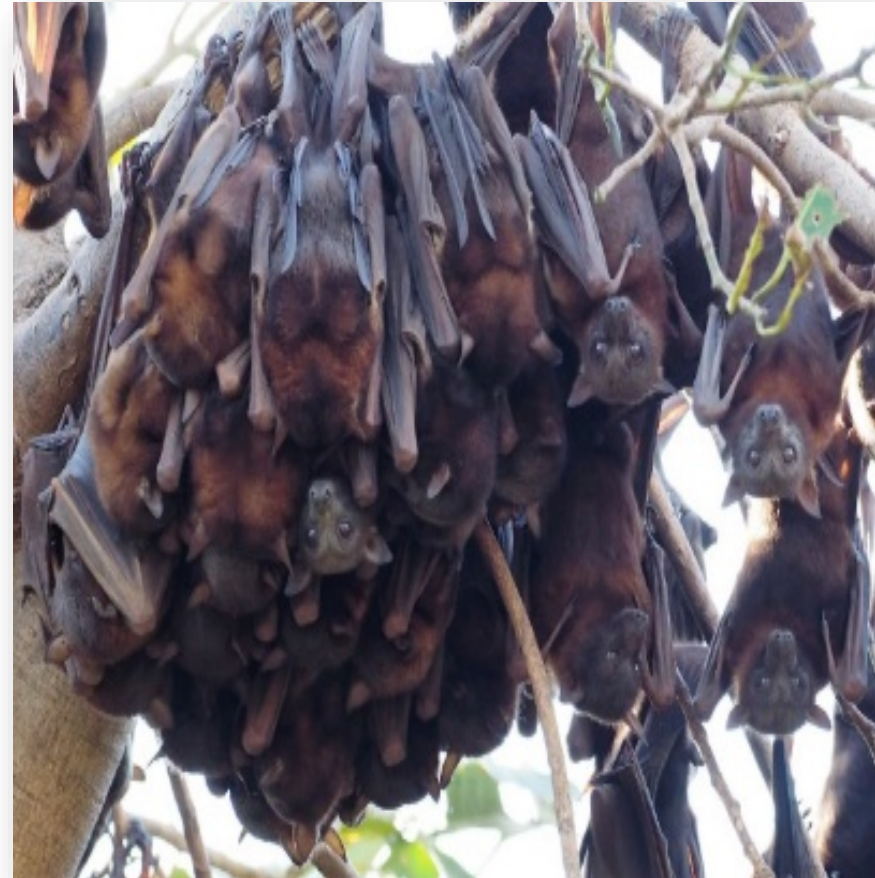
## Preliminary findings after 10 months:

- 44% of actions were roost dispersals, and 56% managing flying-foxes at a roost
- 81% of notifications were in NQ and FNQ
- 96% of councils reported having achieved their intended outcomes using dispersal actions and 92% when using other roost management measures.
- DES will do a more complete analysis when we have 12 months of data and in years to come



## Reduce Flying-Fox Conflict Research Program 2016-20

- Seven part research program led by CSIRO
- DES has received and is reviewing a draft report
- Preliminary findings are promising and will enable DES to work with councils on improved strategies for dealing with influxes of LRFF
- Final report due November 2020



## Preparedness for heat stress events

- Following mass deaths of flying-foxes during an extreme heat event in north Qld in late November 2018, DES commissioned research by Melbourne University into ways to manage flying-fox roosts in order to reduce mortality during heat waves
- These events cannot be avoided but managing them effectively can be very important in helping reduce flying-fox mortality rates
- Recently DES has worked with vet Dr Tania Bishop on guidance material for managing heat stress event impacts on flying-foxes
- Dr Bishop will incorporate information from the MU study to develop a standard guideline for managing and responding to heat stress events at roosts across different climatic conditions
- The final guideline is likely to be completed in early December 2020

## Development of alternative roost site at Charters Towers

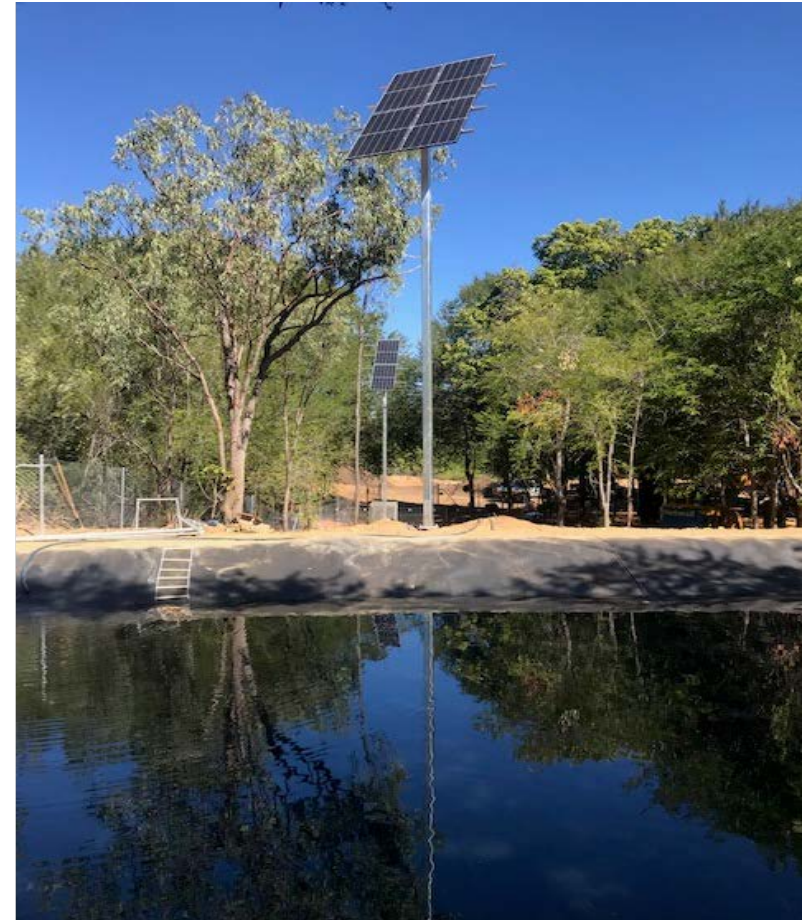
- DES, Charters Towers Regional Council and CSIRO collaborated to reduce conflict at Lissner Park flying-fox roost.
- As part of this program an alternative flying-fox roost on Council-owned land on the outskirts of Charters Towers has been developed.
- Site improvements including landscaping and turf, a water supply system and pond, fencing and lighting – to make the site appealing as a desirable place to roost.





## Trial - alternative roost at Charters Towers

- Council had tried over 25 dispersal techniques at Lissner Park over decades without success –so worth a try.
- Location and design based on advice from CSIRO – historic roost?
- Tender problems due to COVID-19
- Construction completed early July 2020

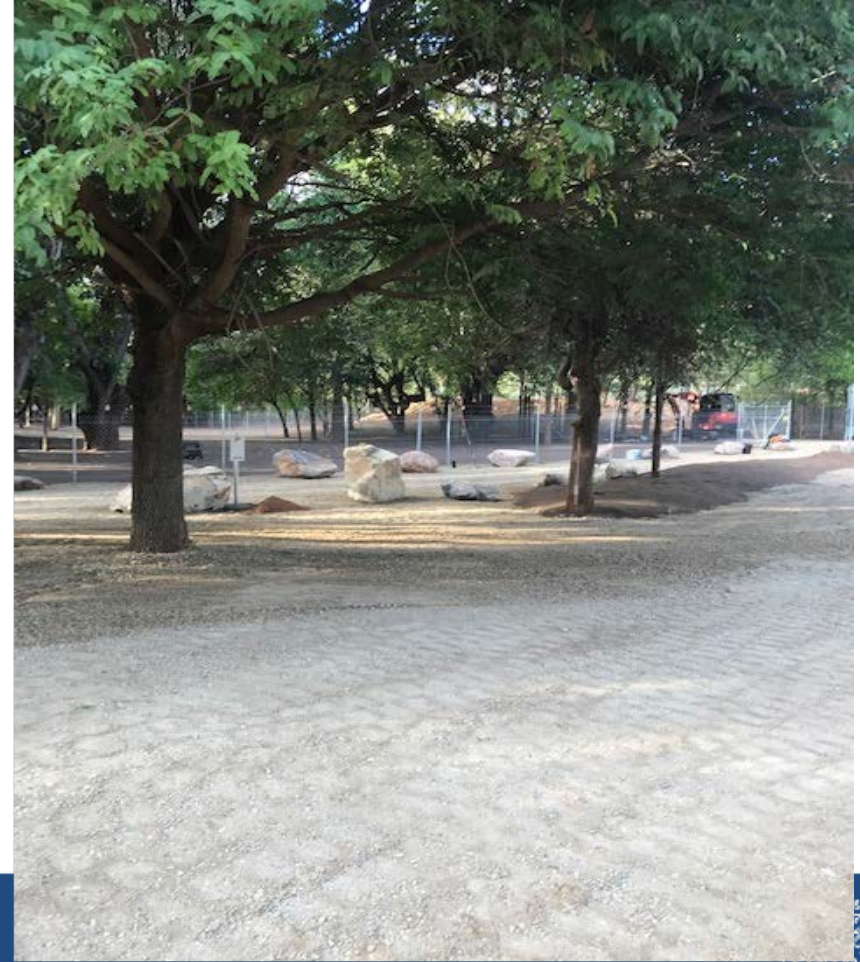


## Trial - alternative roost at Charters Towers

- Site will be managed by Council from now on – funds allocated for this
- DES engaged Ecosure to deliver a program designed to relocate the flying-foxes from Lissner Park towards the alternative roost site.
- Delayed due to COVID-19 related construction delays
- Dispersal-relocation was to start in May 2020 but revised to mid July
- Delay due to presence of crèched LRFF pups.
- Now likely to start in April 2021.



# Alternative roost site at Charters Towers



# Thank You