

What further action can I take?

You have a number of options to manage flying foxes. However, it's important to remember that any actions you take are also subject to a code of practice, the permission of relevant landholders and other applicable laws. Before you take action, ensure that what you plan to do is lawful, and use these options as a guide:

Low impact activities: All members of the public may undertake low impact activities at roosts according to the relevant Code of Practice, available on EHP's website. Low impact activities are mulching, mowing or weeding under or near roost trees, and/or minor trimming of roost trees.

Contact your local council: The current flying-fox management framework gives local governments the right to disperse, remove or otherwise manage flying-fox roosts in designated urban flying-fox management areas (UFFMA) using non-lethal measures only and subject to a code of practice, the permission of relevant landholders and other applicable laws.

Apply for a flying fox roost management plan (FFRMP): Members of the public and corporate bodies such as schools, body corporates and the like may apply for a FFRMP to manage flying-fox roosts on their own properties. The FFRMP holder has a number of actions at its disposal including destroying a roost, dispersing the roost, or modifying a part of the roost through tree trimming and/or removal of roost trees.

Apply for a damage mitigation permit (DMP) for crop protection: Lethal control of flying foxes is intended to provide fruit growers with an additional form of crop protection only where non-harmful measures have been attempted. It is a requirement that fruit growers use lethal measures in conjunction with two other non-harmful practises, such as netting.

What should I do if...

I want to apply for a FFRMP or DMP?

Visit EHP's website for further information:
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/roost-management.html

Someone has been bitten or scratched by a bat?

Call Queensland Health on 13 HEALTH (13 432 584)

I see someone interacting with bats illegally?

Call the Department of Environment
and Heritage Protection on 1300 130 372

I find a sick or injured bat or flying fox?

Call the RSPCA on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)

For more information

For more information about flying foxes, associated health risks and the management options available to you, go to:
www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/index.html

Or scan:



Little red nomads

A guide to living with seasonal flying foxes





What are they?

Of the four species of flying fox that call Australia home, it's the smallest one that causes the most trouble—the Little Red flying fox (*Pteropus scapulatus*). Like the other three species, Little Reds play a vital role in pollination and seed dispersal for native plants. Unlike the others, Little Reds:

- are nomadic—they usually only remain in one place for 4-8 weeks before moving on
- mostly eat native tree blossom as opposed to fruit
- can roost in huge colonies—20,000 or more

Most of what we know about the general behaviour and biology of Little Reds is based on studies of other species of flying fox. We are now looking at what makes this species different. EHP has commissioned CSIRO to track Little Reds using GPS, and collect data on their movement and behaviour. We will use this new information to improve management practices for the benefit of both flying foxes and people.

Their stay can be problematic, but it's temporary.

Little Reds will stay put for 4-8 weeks while they eat all the local blossom, and leave when the food runs out. Their colonies generate significant noise, smell and droppings. When they roost near homes and businesses, this can affect the quality of life of people nearby. In addition to wellbeing, many people have concerns for their health.

Can they make you sick?

The chance of contracting any disease from flying foxes is **very low**, and it's easy to reduce the risk even further.

- A small percentage of flying foxes carry **Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV)**. It's a dangerous disease, but you can only be infected if you are bitten or scratched by a flying fox, so zero contact means zero risk.
- Flying foxes may also carry **Hendravirus**, but humans cannot contract the disease directly from them. The virus must first be transmitted to a horse before it can affect humans. If you own horses, you can have them vaccinated—this will keep you and your livestock safe.
- Humans can't contract either of these viruses from flying fox droppings, but like all animal droppings, bacteria such as *Salmonella* can be present in them.

What can I do while they're here?

- Cover your pool and car at night
- Bring your washing in before dusk
- Net your fruit trees—be sure to use mesh that does not entangle bats
- Plant potential roost trees away from houses, or make existing trees less attractive to flying foxes by clearing the understorey and removing branches
- When flying foxes are distressed, they make a lot of noise. Colonies tend to be noisiest when they are disturbed by people and least noisy when left alone.
- Unfortunately, little can be done about the smell of a roost. The smell is related to the way that flying foxes communicate with each another.

