



Flying Fox Dispersal

FACT SHEET

Flying fox dispersal in Batemans Bay

Flying fox dispersal was undertaken in Batemans Bay from 22 June 2016 until 1 August 2016 and then afterwards subject to approval from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.

Council prioritised dispersal efforts in locations where vegetation clearing was approved, increasing buffer zones between residences and camps. These buffers are designed to reduce the impact of the flying foxes if they return in the warmer months and during times when dispersal activities cannot be carried out.

Council continues to monitor the flying fox camps. Depending on camp numbers and locations, further dispersal activities may take place in 2017 in accordance with the Dispersal Plan 2016-19 and approval conditions.

Dispersal activities

Dispersal has to be undertaken in accordance with the conditions of approval issued by the NSW and Australian Governments.

Primary dispersal is performed in active camps and incorporates activities which are limited to two and a half hours, timed to coincide with the fly-in period at dawn.

Maintenance dispersal may be carried out in areas where all flying foxes have been dispersed to discourage them from re-establishing camps.

Dispersal activities may include:

- random industrial-type noise played through directional speakers
- banging of metal objects and whistles
- flashing or spot lights
- deterrent or sprinklers sprayed onto the tree canopy when flying foxes are not in the camp to discourage flying foxes from landing
- smoke from small areas (pile or controlled burn) on days of suitable weather conditions

Residents will be advised when dispersal activities are occurring in their area. These activities may disturb residents and disrupt sleep. The increased time the flying foxes are in the air will likely result in additional noise and increased faecal drop. Unfortunately, these impacts are unavoidable.

Flying foxes are a protected species and dispersal is a highly coordinated, heavily legislated and costly activity. We ask you to only listen to advice from Council, the Dispersal Team or the Office of Environment and Heritage about flying fox management activities.

Dispersal does not mean that all flying foxes will leave the region

Dispersal activity does not guarantee that all flying foxes will leave an area. There have always been flying foxes in Eurobodalla and there will continue to be after the dispersal, however numbers and locations cannot be predicted.



Do not disturb

During dispersal, you can help us by letting the flying foxes rest during the day. This is one of the most important roles the community play in dispersal. Flying foxes need to be rested to follow dispersal signals and to migrate away from town. Keeping the environment around flying foxes quiet improves the outcome of dispersal.

Flying fox colonies may 'splinter' into separate camps around town

One of the risks of dispersal is that the main flying fox colony may 'splinter' into smaller groups and cover a larger area in town. This creates a scenario which is difficult to manage and may lead to a number of dispersals taking place at the same time. During primary dispersals, be prepared to experience flying foxes temporarily roosting in your trees and the potential for dispersal activity outside your premises.

Report flying fox sightings

If you're not sure that Council knows about flying foxes in your trees during the day, you should report it to Council via the online form at www.esc.nsw.gov.au/ffsightings or by phone if you do not have internet access.

Dispersal activities may need to stop

Dispersal activities are approved by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Federal Department of Environment. If there are concerns for the welfare of flying foxes, such as during extreme weather events, or if they are heavily pregnant or with young, Council is required to cease dispersal.

Council will also stop dispersal activities if there is an ongoing increase in the number of splinter camps in inappropriate locations or unintended impacts are created for the community around the camp (e.g. increased power outages).

Do not touch flying foxes

Do not touch flying foxes under any circumstances.

If you see a sick, injured or dead flying fox, or are concerned for the welfare of flying foxes, contact the Council on 02 4474 1000.

More information

Council is the key community contact regarding flying foxes. Call 02 4474 1000 or find more information on our website www.esc.nsw.gov.au/flyingfoxes

