



COUNCIL PROGRESS REPORT

Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council



TOPIC TITLE:

Management of Flying Fox Influx in
Woorabinda

DATE: 22/05/2024

This report outlines the situation, proposed actions, and necessary information for Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council to approve and proceed with the management of the flying fox issue.

Topic Overview: *Woorabinda is currently experiencing a significant influx of flying foxes, which is causing disruptions, particularly with the power supply. These animals near power lines pose a risk to infrastructure and the local community. Eco Shift Wildlife Management specialises in the management of flying fox issues using sound technology, which has proven successful in various towns across Australia, including recent operations in Rockhampton Botanic Gardens.*

Progress: Eco Shift Wildlife Management proposed a management plan to address the flying fox issue immediately. Upon approval, their team will be on site and will commence operation. This plan follows DESI guidelines and focuses on minimizing disturbance to residents while effectively dispersing flying foxes. The key components of the proposed operation include:

- Deployment of a two-operator team.
- Utilization of a focused sound system and lights.
- Operating hours from 0430-0700.
- An initial minimum operation period of three days.

Plans: *Short-term Objectives:*

Immediate commencement of flying fox dispersal operations.

Monitoring and adjusting the strategy based on the animals' reactions.

Long-term Objectives:

Potential continuation of operations beyond the initial three days, if necessary, with reduced charges for extended periods.

Ongoing evaluation and reporting to ensure the effective resolution of the issue.

Problems: Potential Blockers:

Unpredictable reactions from the flying foxes, which may extend the required operation time.

Coordination with residents to minimise disturbance during early morning operations.

Ensuring compliance with DESI guidelines throughout the operation.

Key Information: *Previous successful management of flying fox issues in Batemans Bay, NSW, and Port Douglas.*

Recent successful operation in Rockhampton Botanic Gardens before Anzac Day.

Cost and operational details:

- *\$2,170 per day per operator (two operators required)*
- *\$900 per day for system hire (LRAD)*
- *Total per day: \$5,240 (Plus GST)*

The proposal's terms include at least three days of operation and 14-day payment terms.

Conclusion: *The influx of flying foxes in Woorabinda presents a real challenge, especially regarding power disruptions. The proposed sound technology-based management plan offers a focused and minimally intrusive solution to disperse flying foxes efficiently. With immediate action and community cooperation, Eco Shift Wildlife Management expects to resolve the issue within a few days. Should the need arise for extended operations, we are prepared to continue with reduced charges, ensuring a flexible and responsive approach to this urgent problem.*

Reginald Cressbrook
Town Services Manager