

## Why sightings of flying-foxes in urban areas are increasing

Nomadic flying-foxes typically roost within flying distance of their preferred food sources, which include eucalypts, melaleuca, banksia, lilly pilly and Moreton Bay figs. With the ever increasing urban sprawl and industry growth the possible roosting sites for flying-foxes are diminishing; leaving flying-foxes little choice but to roost in urban areas.

## It's not easy to disperse a colony of flying-foxes

A 20 year review period has shown that relocating a colony of flying-foxes is ineffective and costly. There is lots of evidence to show that flying-foxes will often return to an area, or be replaced by a separate colony.

Learning to live with flying-foxes and understanding their significance is an important step towards harmonious coexistence in our local environment. State and federal policies are also important in balancing community and environmental concerns about flying-foxes.

## The three species found in the Upper Hunter region

### Grey-headed Flying-fox

This species is identifiable by its reddish-brown collar and grey head. Human impacts are affecting its required habitat, and consequently the Grey-headed Flying-fox is listed as vulnerable under the federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

### Little Red Flying-fox

With a reddish-brown fur, this is the smallest Australian flying-fox, often travelling further inland than the other species.

### Black Flying-fox

Largely black in colour, this species is more predominant in the north and north-east of Australia.

**Upper Hunter Shire Council is monitoring the numbers of bats in the Shire as part of a National Flying-fox Monitoring Program and if you have any questions or concerns call the Upper Hunter Shire Council on 02 6540 1100.**

This brochure was created by the Sustainability Unit of Muswellbrook Shire Council to help residents of Upper Hunter region to gain a better understanding of the flying-fox.

#### Resources

[www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/flyingfoxes.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals/flyingfoxes.htm)

[sydneybats.org.au](http://sydneybats.org.au)

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/flying-foxes-questions.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/factsheets/Pages/flying-foxes-questions.aspx)

[www.bats.org.au](http://www.bats.org.au)

Billie Roberts and Peggy Eby (2013) Review of past flying-fox dispersal actions between 1990-2013. Available from: [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/animals](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/animals)



**muswellbrook  
shire council**



# flying XOJ

also known as a fruit bat

**A guide for  
Upper Hunter residents**

# We can be good neighbours

We love, love, love to eat nectar, pollen and fruit.

We like to fly out at dusk to eat, and return some time before dawn.

Our fresh poo is easily cleaned away with a hose, or stiff brush.

We are excellent seed dispersers and flower pollinators. We can disperse thousands of seeds over a large area in one night!

We roost during the day near our mates chatting, grooming and napping.

Our poo is a bit smelly. But honestly, it's not a serious health hazard to humans.

We hate to brag, but some species of Australian plants rely almost entirely on us for their continued survival.

The less stressed we are the less commotion we make.

We can suddenly occupy a new camp taking you by surprise. We often empty camp just as quickly. Although sometimes we do get settled and like to stay.

We're actually quite clean. However please don't try to touch us, even if we're injured. If you do get bitten or scratched make sure you receive medical assistance without delay.

We play an important role in maintaining the natural environment around the Upper Hunter.

Infections are VERY rare, and risk is negligible, however we are known to be carriers of the Australian Bat Lyssavirus and Hendra virus.

If you see an injured or distressed flying-fox do not touch or try to handle it, call Wildlife Aid on 0429 850 089.