

Important Notice

Little Red Flying-foxes

Little Red Flying-foxes are highly nomadic and as part of their normal nomadic behaviours visit the North Burnett region. Following the flowering of the eucalypts along the eastern seaboard of Australia flying-foxes play an important role in the pollination of our natural habitat. They will move away from our area once the flowering has finished.

In the meantime here are some suggestions that may help:


- ⇒ *Do not leave your washing out at night; Bring it in before dusk*
- ⇒ *Garage or cover your vehicles*
- ⇒ *Use a pool cover*
- ⇒ *Cover or bring in any outdoor furniture, under shelter, at night*
- ⇒ *Try not to disturb them – disturbing them only makes them noisier and heightens the odour*



Did you know?

The odour that is emitted from them is not from their droppings. It is an odour that is secreted to help them identify each other, mark territories, and communicate with each other.

Little Red Flying-foxes are the smallest of the flying-fox species. They are specialist nectar feeders, preferring the blossoms from native trees and shrubs. They also feed on mangrove flowers and play a critical role in their pollination, as with eucalypt species. As the flowering of eucalypts can vary from year to year depending on climatic conditions, these flying-foxes have adapted to this unpredictability by leading a nomadic lifestyle. Their travels take them out to Western Queensland, into the Northern Territory and the Kimberley, then north to the rainforests of Cape York, then down the east coast of Australia as far as Southern Victoria.



Questions and Answers

What about disease? Can I catch Hendra Virus from a flying-fox?

People do not catch Hendra Virus from flying-foxes. Research shows that people can only catch Hendra Virus from close contact with infected horses. For information on protecting horses visit the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website.

I have heard that flying-foxes carry rabies. Is this true and can I catch it?

Flying-foxes do not have rabies. Only a very small percentage of flying-foxes (less than 1%) are infected with a disease called Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) which is similar, but not the same, as rabies. This virus can only be transmitted to humans by bites or scratches from infected bats or saliva into an open wound.

What about their droppings?

If you do not handle flying-foxes you have nothing to fear. Neither you nor your pets will get ABLV (Lyssavirus) from flying-foxes flying overhead, roosting or feeding in your yard or touching their droppings.

The Qld Health website suggests –

“that contact or exposure to bat faeces, urine or blood do not pose a risk of exposure to ABLV, nor do loving, playing or walking near bat roosting areas.”

What if there is a flying-fox on the ground or a sick one in my tree?

Contact Council on 1300 696 272 with the location and description of where the injured flying-fox is. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE OR TOUCH THE FLYING-FOX YOURSELF.

What do I do if I get flying-fox droppings on my car?

To remove flying-fox droppings it is recommended to cover the stain with a wet cloth or newspaper and leave it soak for about half an hour, then simply wipe it off. Remove droppings as soon as possible and never leave them to dry in the sun.

