

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Flying fox response team ready for roosting season**

With warm weather and the flowering season under way, flying foxes are returning to Gladstone Region locations for the roosting season.

In recent years, they have been seen in significant numbers at Miriam Vale's Alf Larson Lions Park playground where families gather and close to residential areas there.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said Council would have a Rapid Response Unit ready to prevent the re-establishment of a roost at Alf Larson Lions Park, after a management plan was developed last year.

"We developed the Miriam Vale plan in consultation with the community and one of the outcomes was to have a Rapid Response Unit to prevent a long-term roost returning.

"The unit is made up of flying fox management professionals who use best practice techniques to discourage flying foxes from roosting in the fig tree down there," Councillor Burnett said.

A sign has been erected in front of the tree asking people to contact Council if they notice bats there during the day.

The Rapid Response Team will only be activated if flying foxes try to return to Alf Larson Lions Park.

"While flying foxes have impacted public spaces in the past, they do play a positive role in the environment," Cr Burnett said.

"Their high mobility helps disperse seeds and pollinate flowering plants to keep native forests healthy."

Further details about flying fox management on Council managed land can be found at [www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/living-with-wildlife](http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/living-with-wildlife) .

For more information about living with flying foxes, visit the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website at [www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/living-with-flying-foxes.html](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/living-with-flying-foxes.html)

People are reminded not to handle dead or injured bats and to report the latter to the RSPCA (1300ANIMAL) or Council.