

*Q: What information is available on health issues relating to flying-foxes?*

Flying foxes are native animals, protected under State legislation, which have an important role in our environment, including in pollinating flowering plants and dispersing seeds. Like many wildlife species, flying-foxes may carry bacteria and viruses which can be harmful to humans, however the risk of infection is low. The best protection against being exposed to bacteria or virus is to avoid touching or handling flying foxes.

Queensland Health provides information about health risks and concerns associated with flying-foxes at <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/14/bats-and-human-health>.

*Q: Who is responsible for costs incurred for cleaning flying-fox excrement?*

The responsibility for cleaning of property impacted by flying-fox excrement lies with the property owner. Council is not liable for costs incurred for cleaning flying-fox excrement. Council has agreed to investigation options to advocate on behalf of residents to the state government for financial assistance to support residents with managing flying-fox impacts, however cannot guarantee the outcome of such submissions.

*Q: Can quality of rainwater tank water be tested?*

Droppings and organic matter from various animals, including flying-foxes may end up on roofs and guttering and be washed into rainwater tanks with rain. Where rainwater is collected for drinking purposes it is recommended that first flush diverters are used to discard contaminants and that catchment areas and tanks are regularly maintained.

Council does not test water quality from domestic rainwater tanks. A number of laboratories provide sample analysis services to the public and may be engaged privately. Water supplied by Council at Miriam Vale is treated and monitored to comply with the Australian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.

*Q: Will Council explore any further dispersal actions?*

As detailed in the Miriam Vale Flying-fox Management Plan, Council will continue to enact rapid response dispersal if flying-fox return to roost within Alf Larson Lions Park. In consideration of the results of community surveys undertaken in 2017 and 2019, the presence of flying-fox in this area represents the greatest source of conflict to the wider Miriam Vale community. Due to the risk of unexpected outcomes associated with dispersal and in accordance with our Statement of Management Intent for Flying-fox Roost Management, Council will not be taking action to disperse flying-fox from the current roost location at Chapman Street or any other areas within Miriam Vale.

*Q: Can we encourage people to remove palm trees?*

Whilst flying-foxes primarily feed on the nectar and fruits of native species, exotic garden plants such as Cocos Palms do provide a supplementary food source. The pruning or removal of palm trees and their fruit may assist to alleviate impacts to residents associated

with night-time foraging by flying-foxes. As per the Miriam Vale Flying-fox Management Plan, Council will manage potential non-native foraging trees on Council-managed land as well as provide education and awareness material to residents.

*Q: Can water restrictions be relaxed for residents living near to roost to enable cleaning of water tanks, roofs and cars?*

As a result of current drought conditions, water restrictions have been introduced in Miriam Vale that impose a daily water reduction target of 125L/person for residential properties. Feedback from residents has triggered internal discussions surrounding the impact of water restrictions on residents impacted by flying-fox excrement in Miriam Vale.

Residents may apply to Council for additional water usage allowance if required for cleaning of flying-fox excrement or other reasons. Applications are reviewed against individual circumstances on a case by case basis. The application form is available by contacting Council on (07) 4970 0700.