

National Flying-Fox Forum

A joint full day forum and site visit by the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand
- South East Queensland Division and the Ecology Special Interest Section



Threatened Species Day!

Bus Tour: **TUESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Forum: **WEDNESDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Forum Time: 9am to 6pm
(Registration from 8.30am and
Networking drinks from 5pm – 6pm)

Venue: Bus Tour departs, Brisbane Sofitel 1-5pm
Forum: EcoCentre, Griffith University, University Road
Nathan

Register: Online at www.eianz.org – click on Events, SEQ



Flying-foxes, bats, fruit bats, megabats, whatever they are called they are one of the most recognisable species in Australia. They are a common sight in many regional and urban areas at dusk as they leave their camps along waterways or dense vegetation to forage up to 50 kilometres away in their search for food. They are pollinators of a variety of native plants and a dispersal agent of seeds.

Flying-foxes are gregarious animals that can disrupt people sleeping and camps produce strong odours, which make adjacent living difficult. They are also protected species, including some that are threatened, and management of camps requires approaches that are ethical, humane and will not negatively impact on each population.

Areas of concern about flying-fox camps that will be addressed in this forum:

- Public perception – Flying-foxes are seen to some as pests akin to cane toads and rats;
- Residents have been told that dispersal is the only option to manage flying-foxes and that the problem will go away;
- Ethical considerations about dispersing camps and impacts on individuals and social order;
- Lack of a national approach to management of camps and placing the burden of management on local governments.

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Site Tour – 6 September 2016 (Half Day)

Spend the afternoon with us visiting flying-fox camps in South East Queensland

Stop 1 Emerald Woods (Mooloolaba) - Sunshine Coast Regional Council have developed a Regional Flying-fox Management Plan, which has Council, State and Federal Government approval as a Conservation Agreement. This long-term plan details how council will manage urban flying-fox roosts into the future. At Emerald Woods, SCRC has completed Stage 1 of works including a 10 metre buffer from nearby residential properties. A 30 metre vegetation buffer was created behind the primary impacted property and a trial of canopy mounted sprinklers in this area is currently being undertaken.

Stop 2 Redcliffe Botanic Gardens (Redcliffe) - In the heart of Redcliffe lies this unexpected lush green oasis, part Moreton Bay rainforest and part wallum (banksia) heathland, with picnic tables and a tangle of walking paths through its midst. The star attraction here is the extraordinary bat colony which noisily inhabits the rainforest – at any one time over 1000 mostly black flying foxes eat, screech and flap their way around the treetops by day and night. Moreton Bay Regional Council will be discussing their heat stress response plan and their [monitoring program](#).

Forum – 7 September 2016 (Full Day) – Threatened Species Day

This forum will explore the various management regimes in operation in primarily Queensland and New South Wales with the aim of producing a national strategy for management of flying-fox camps.

This forum explores:

- The effectiveness of dispersal programs based on the speakers' experiences.
- Presentation of data to support alternative measures.
- Factors that affect the effectiveness and success rate of camp management measures.

Speakers include:

- **John Martin** – Wildlife Ecologist, Sydney Botanical Gardens
- **Dave Westcott** – CSIRO
- **Mike Roache** – Office of Environment and Heritage (NSW)
- **Peggy Eby** – Adjunct Senior Lecturer, University of NSW

The day will be structured as follows.

- Session 1 – Keynotes
- Session 2 – Keynotes and Panel discussion
- Session 3 – Lunch and Poster Session
- Session 4 – Speed Talks
- Session 5 – Workshop
- Drinks and canapes

