



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Flying-foxes and National Environmental Law

Ross Rowe, Southern NSW and ACT Assessments



Overview

Protecting nationally threatened species

Regulating impacts

Further information



National Environmental Law, EPBC Act

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- Matters of National Environmental Significance

Listed threatened species

Grey-headed flying-fox (vulnerable)

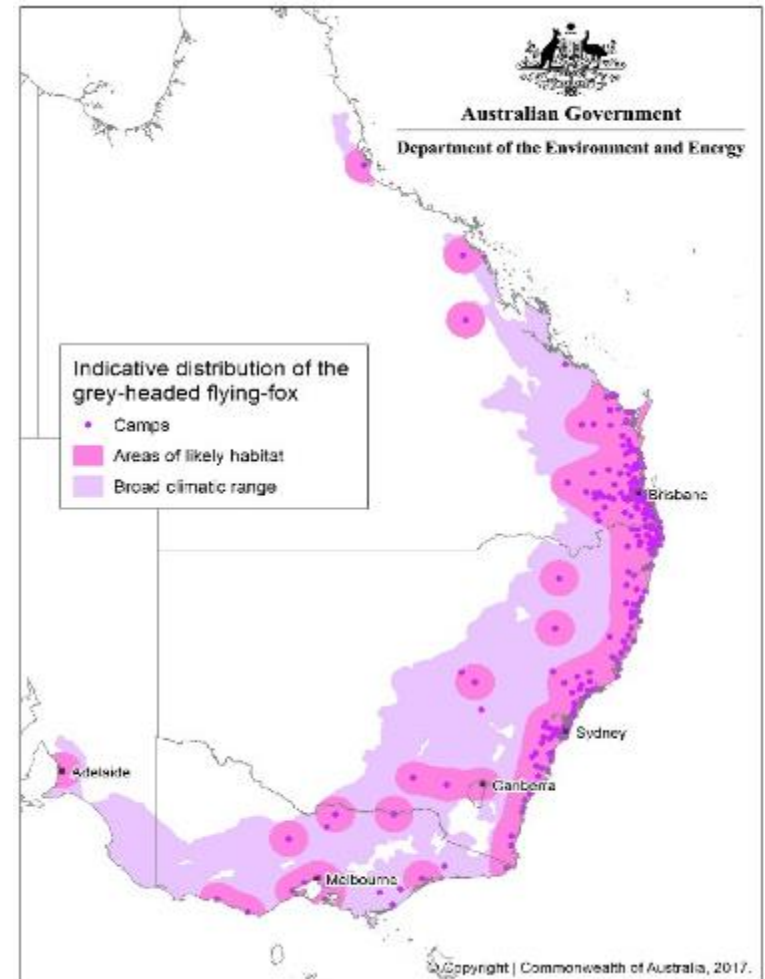
Spectacled flying-fox (vulnerable)

Christmas Island flying-fox (critically endangered)



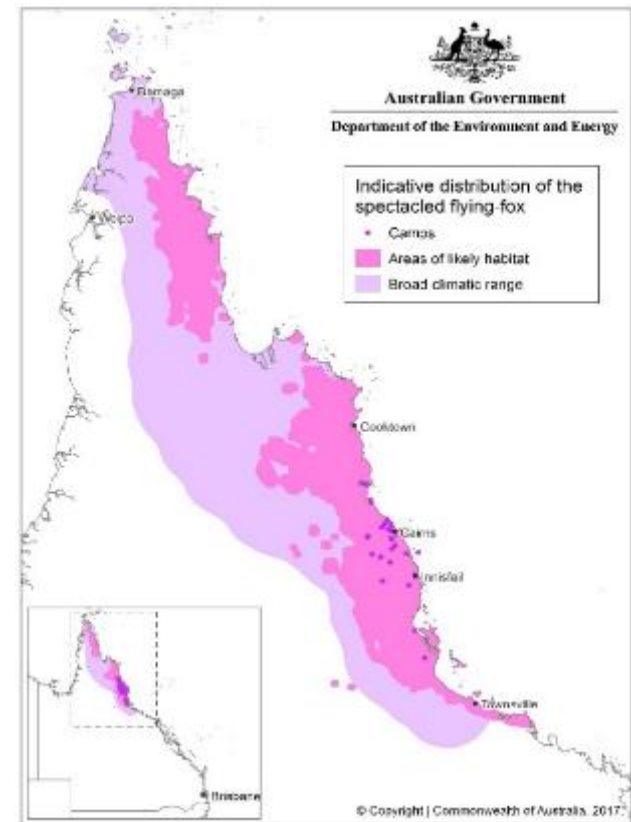
Grey-headed flying-fox

- **EPBC status:** vulnerable
- **EPBC listing date:** 6 Dec 2001
- **Listing criteria met:** eligible under criteria 1 – decline in numbers
- **Recovery plan:** required
- **Recovery plan status:** a final version to be recommended to the Minister shortly



Spectacled flying-fox

- **EPBC status:** vulnerable. A nomination to up list to endangered is being considered
- **EPBC listing date:** 14 May 2002
- **Listing criteria met:** eligible under criteria 1 – decline in numbers and Criteria 5 – probability of its extinction in the wild is at least 10% in the medium-term future
- **Recovery plan:** yes
- **Recovery plan status:** Qld Government plan adopted 21 Apr 2011



Christmas Island flying-fox

- **EPBC status:** critically endangered
- **EPBC listing date:** 3 January 2014
- **Listing criteria met:** eligible under criteria 1 – decline in numbers
- **Recovery plan:** required
- **Recovery plan status:** no adopted or made recovery plan
- **Conservation advice:** approved



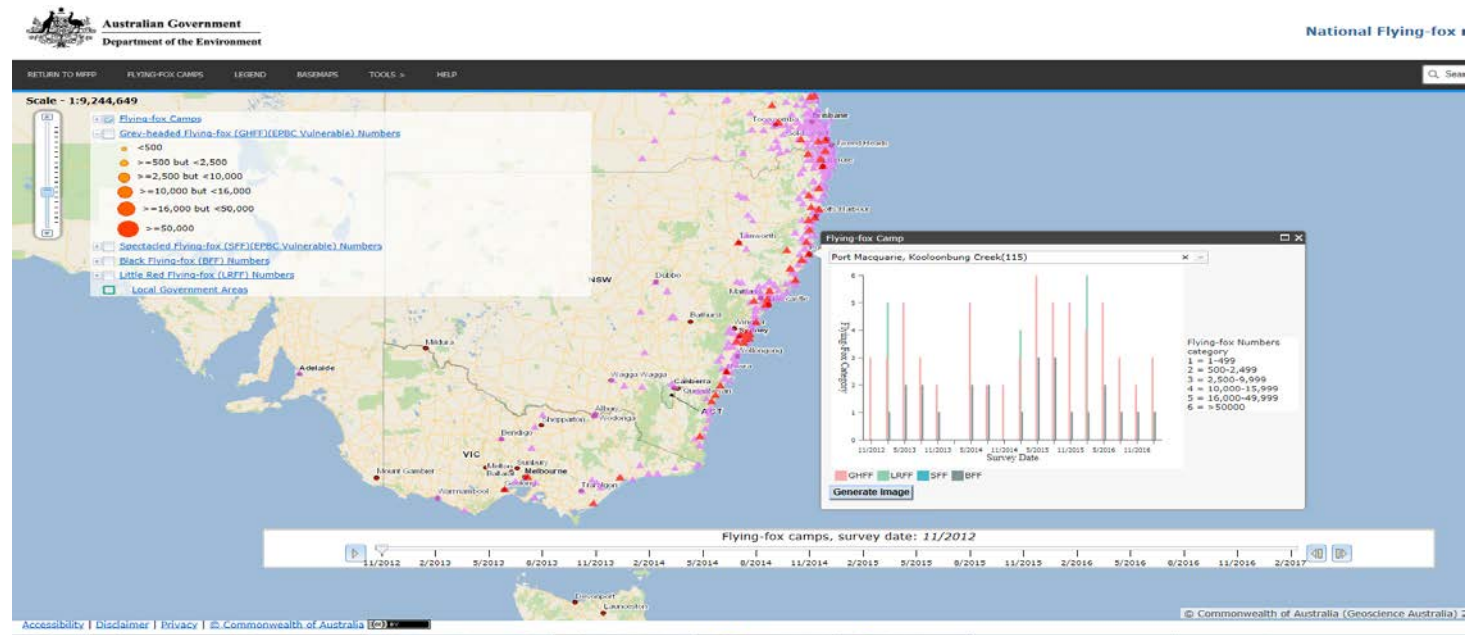
Research

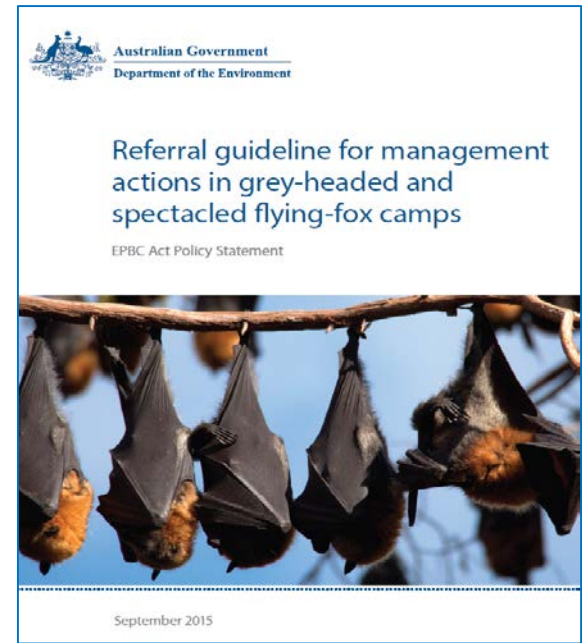
- National monitoring program
 - National Environmental Science Program – Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub, Threatened Species Hub
 - shared urban habitat project
 - management options for urban camps
 - Christmas Island flying-fox
 - Australian Research Council
 - Melbourne Uni linkage grants program
 - Uni of Western Sydney discovery grants program
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Monitoring

- CSIRO methodology
- Joint Australian and state government implementation
- Interactive flying-fox web viewer

www.environment.gov.au/webgis-framework/apps/ffc-wide/ffc-wide.jsf





Regulating impacts

Referral guidelines

- Actions that may have a significant impact need approval under the EPBC Act
- Significant impact guidelines 1.1

Camp management

- Referral guidelines for camp management actions (2015)
 - nationally important camps
 - best practice standards
- Actions consistent with the guidelines do not need to be referred
- www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/flying-fox-policy-statement

Regulating impacts

Conservation agreements

- Benefit – may include declaration that EPBC Act approval of actions is not required
 - Requirements:
 - net benefit
 - not inconsistent with a recovery plan, threat abatement plan, or wildlife conservation plan
 - legally binding
 - Examples – Sunshine Coast & Eurobodalla (Batemans Bay)
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Parliamentary Inquiry

- November 2016 – inquiry into the impact of nationally protected flying-foxes on communities in the eastern states of Australia
 - 67 submissions
 - Department’s submission summarised the legislative and policy framework for the Australian Government’s involvement in flying-fox management
 - 24 Nov 2016 round table forum
 - 27 February 2017 – Report (‘Living with fruit bats’) tabled in Federal Parliament
 - The Australian Government is considering its response
 - www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Environment_and_Energy/Flyingfoxmanagement
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Further information

- Dedicated flying-fox education and awareness www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/flying-fox-law
- EPBC Act www.environment.gov.au/epbc
- Significant impact guidelines
www.environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/significant-impact-guidelines-11-matters-national-environmental-significance
- Listing processes www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/assessments
- Recovery planning www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/recovery-plans
- Referral and assessment processes www.environment.gov.au/protection/environment-assessments
- Conservation agreements www.environment.gov.au/protection/environment-assessments/conservation-agreements

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