

## NSW Flying Fox Grant Program – Stream 1 Grants Awarded

The NSW Flying Fox Grant Program 2016-17 assisted councils manage flying fox camps, consistent with the NSW Flying Fox Camp Management Policy 2015. Local Government NSW was engaged by the Office of Environment and Heritage to deliver the Program. The Program objectives sought to assist councils:

- Implement emergency flying fox camp management measures where there are significant community impacts (Stream 1)
- Prepare flying fox camp management plans (Stream 2)
- Implement approved actions in flying fox camp management plans (Stream 3)

A total of \$1 million in funding has been made available to NSW councils under the Flying Fox Grants Program. LGNSW awarded the following local government organisations Stream 1 funding to deliver flying fox camp management plans actions.

Applicant	Grant	Project Description
Bathurst Regional Council	\$20,045	<b>Clean Up Activities - Machattie Park.</b> A new flying fox camp became established in Machattie Park, Bathurst. About 50 bats roosted in early December 2017 and the camp expanded to more than 2,500 in the second week of January 2018. Council had not planned for, nor had resources, to undertake additional ongoing clean-up of the heritage listed old english garden park - to ensure the amenity and usability at required standards. To ensure that the park is available for use, Council undertook regular cleaning of excrement on seats throughout the park and the raking of debris and tree litter from lawn areas and paths that was generated by the flying fox colony. Having Machattie Park remain usable and open to the community helped demonstrate and educate residents that there is the possibility of cohabitation with flying fox colonies within public recreational facilities, provided colony numbers are manageable.
Clarence Valley Council	\$42,109	<b>Maclean flying fox camp habitat modification and school covered areas.</b> Flying foxes arrived in unprecedented numbers, with both Little Red and Grey Headed occupying areas not previously used. Although no formal count was undertaken in 2017, occupation expanded further up the gully into adjacent residential areas including Kerry Street where they had not been in the past. They also occupied trees around the school, including trees and habitat within 10 metres of class rooms and hanging over the main car park and access point to the Maclean High School. This project covered high use areas to prevent students and teachers being subject to faeces fall, as well as clearing an additional buffer around the entrance to the school. Two shelters were erected to cover high use areas at the school where flying fox droppings caused issues with sanitation and impacted on use. In addition, the buffer created around the walkway to the school was enhanced and extended. Part of the buffer enhancement included weed control and planting with ground covers not suitable for roosting.

Shoalhaven City Council	\$47,130	<p><b>Bomaderry Grey-Headed Flying Fox Camp.</b> The Grey-Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) camp at Bomaderry was located within an urban environment, within 300 metres of several properties. The camp increased in size to approximately 10,000 individuals and expanded beyond the council reserve into private properties. The GHFF roost in adjacent trees, overhanging and within residences. Nearby residents are severely impacted by odour, noise and droppings. The project delivered buffer enhancement works on the western boundary, on-going weed removal and vegetation management to the area to minimise human/GHFF conflict. Residents were offered emergency alleviation measures such as car covers, clothesline covers and portable air-conditioning units.</p>
Upper Hunter Shire Council	\$25,000	<p><b>Murrurundi Public School - Taking Cover.</b> Over a three-week period in early autumn 2017, the population of the flying fox camp on the Pages River and centrally located in the township of Murrurundi exploded to more than 100,000. The camp was adjacent to the Murrurundi Public School with excrement littering the playground areas, playground equipment, within a sandpit and vehicle parking area. This project installed shade structures to reduce health and safety risks to young children, parents and staff members at Murrurundi Public School. The shade structures cover playground spaces to minimise exposure to flying fox faeces. The project had no direct impact on the flying fox colony and is specific to the school precinct.</p>