

CM13.3. Draft Flying Fox Colony Management Plan

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
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Purpose of Report

The Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan was endorsed by Council on 8 October 2018 and placed on public exhibition until Monday 12 November 2018.

The purpose of this report is to inform Council that several submissions were received during the notification period. As a result, some minor changes have been made to the plan with others noted.

Background

During 2018, LGNSW funded a program in partnership with the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) to assist Councils throughout NSW to produce management plans for flying-fox camps within their LGAs.

Accordingly, through a Request for Quotation process, Biosis was engaged to develop the draft plan.

Albury City Council at its ordinary meeting on Monday 8 October 2018 resolved to:

1. Adopt the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan;
2. Place the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan on public exhibition for 28 days; and
3. If no submissions are received during the public exhibition period, adopt the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan.

Issues

The public exhibition of the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Management Plan concluded on 12 November 2018, with four submissions being received. The following table provides the name of the respondents, a summary of comments raised in their submission and the response to be taken considering their feedback.

Stakeholder	Comment	Response
Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) – Matt Cameron	Refer to 'camp' as shown in figure 2	Section 8 Management Options has been amended to make reference to the 'camp' as that shown in Figure 2
	Include only those routine	Amended section 8.1.2 to

	activities that will be undertaken in the camp area	remove any activities from the policy that will not be applied to the camp area
	Amend text to replace recommendations with Council's position	Amendments made throughout report to reflect Council's endorsement of the Plan
	Much of the vegetation marked 'not native' in Figure 4 would constitute native vegetation	No change made. Vegetation was ground-truthed by botanists.
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Victoria – Glen Johnson	Requires detailed mapping of camp vegetation, including cover, abundance and spatial distribution of individual trees	One of the primary objectives of the Management Plan is to ensure camp management activities do not lead to a change in the vegetation structure or microclimatic conditions of the current camp.
	Requires weed control program to secure Flying Fox habitat in the long-term, including staged weed removal and replacement with suitable (recommended) native species	<p>Detailed mapping and woody weed removal are not considered necessary for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned management approach is to only undertake minimal vegetation management (ie. priority weed removal in the camp area) and some revegetation in the broader area (ie. not within the current camp area). • A minimal approach to vegetation in this area will minimise erosion or changes to vegetation structure and habitat type or availability. • Weed removal has the potential to reduce roost availability and reduce the numbers of roosting flying-foxes. • Weed spread from the current camp location is not likely to significantly impact weed and

		vegetation management in the adjacent area.
	Need to map internal trail	The internal trail is mapped in Figure 2.
WIRES- Christine Fowler and Hazel Cook	Need a path to the camp to check on the bats.	<p>Grey-headed Flying Foxes (GHFF)'s are extremely sensitive to noise and movement within the camp area. The informal trail that comes within 1m of the current extent of the camp should be closed because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would avoid human interactions; • It would discourage dog walkers from using this area as an off-leash area; • It is redundant as the formal Wagirra Trail is adjacent to the site; • The bats only need to be observed for population counts.
	Need for more flowering and fruit planting in the general Albury area	This action is outside the scope of the Management Plan
	More understorey planting under River Red Gums	This action is outside the scope of the Management Plan
	Need to plant flowering trees away from barb wire fencing	This action is outside the scope of the Management Plan
Jonathon Howard	Comment 1- stated goal is 'to ensure long-term occupation of GHFF at Leaney's Bend' Suggest that this is reworded to state 'ensure long-term sustainability of Leaney's Bend for occupation by GHFF'	The overall management plan wording has been changed to 'ensure long-term sustainability of Leaney's Bend for occupation by GHFF'
	Comment 2 - suggests defining a study area	Noted. This has already been defined
	Comment 3 - suggests changing the nine objectives of the report.	These objectives were set from the OEH Flying Fox template document
	Comment 4 - there is too much background information about	Noted. This information forms part of the OEH Flying Fox

	background information, consultation and ecology of the species.	template document.
	Comment 5 - the plan's flow is not logical.	Noted. The format is set by OEH as we used their template to populate this report.
	Comment 6 - would like to see a separate list of activities and a 'one pager for contractor's and Council staff working onsite.'	A standard Operating Procedure and a Site Specific Risk Assessment will be developed for staff and contractors following endorsement of the plan.
	Comment 7- Defecation by the GHFF's will enrich the soil and change the plant species of the site. Fire could be an effective management tool and tree lopping can cause unacceptable risk to bats.	It is not practical to deal with the accumulation of faeces under the camp, or to use fire as a tool in an urban area. The plan already states that no canopy removal will be undertaken.

Risk

- Business Risk - The draft Management Plan proposes minimal interventions around the camp. A small staffing resource allocation will need to be required to continue to conduct welfare checks during extreme weather events and quarterly population fly-out counts. Some of this work may be undertaken by volunteers.
- Corporate Risk - The Leaney's Bend location is ideal due to limited opportunity of bat and human interactions. The plan recommends limiting access to the public around the camp.
- WHS and Public Risk - Flying-foxes, like all animals, carry pathogens that may pose human health risks. Limiting public access will reduce this risk.

Community Engagement

A steering group of key stakeholders has provided valuable input into the development of this plan.

Following Council's endorsement of the draft plan, it was placed on public exhibition for 28 days. Promotion of the exhibition of the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan occurred via the AlburyCity website which included access to a full copy of the draft plan. The document was also displayed at each of Albury City's Customer Service Centres including 553 Kiewa Street, Library/Museum and Lavington Library.

Options

1. Receive and note submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan; and
2. Endorse the Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan with amendments; or
3. Endorse the Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan without amendments.

Conclusion

Public exhibition of the draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan has concluded with four submissions received. Minor amendments have been made to define the location of the camp and to articulate Council's endorsement of the plan. The wording 'ensure long-term occupation' of the camp has been changed to reflect 'long-term suitability of the camp'. A Site Specific Risk Assessment and Standard Operating Procedure will be developed to ensure Council staff and contractors work in close proximity to the camp once the plan is adopted.

The amended draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan is now recommended for adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a. Receive and note submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan; and
- b. Adopt the Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan with amendments as identified in Attachment 1.

Attachments

1. Draft Padman Park (Leaney's Bend) Flying Fox Camp Management Plan Reviewed November 2018 (DOC18/177869)