

From: HOTCHKIS Debra [Debra.Hotchkis@ehp.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 May 2014 12:37 PM

To: WILLIAMS Rebecca

CC: ARMBRUSTER Christine; PRIOR Katrina; GAVIN David

Subject: CRC tree timming - 20th May 2014

Attachments: CRC tree trimming-140520.pdf; Creche tree - before.jpg; Creche tree - after.jpg; Creche left and bus shelter tree right - before.jpg; Bus shelter tree - after.jpg

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Completed

Hi Beck,

Report and photos from yesterday and this morning.

Deb

Deb Hotchkis

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Checklist

Wildlife management

Supervising local government as-of-right flying-fox roost management

The purpose of this checklist is to assist Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) officers in ensuring flying-fox roost management actions undertaken by local governments under section 41A of the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 occurs lawfully and complies with the Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts ('the Code').

EHP officers observing local government as-of-right flying-fox roost management actions should use the below checklist to ensure management actions are lawful and Code-compliant.

Name of local government:	Cairns Regional Council
Name and location of flying-fox roost:	Cairns Library
Date and time:	20/5/14 @ 6.00pm

1. Is the flying-fox roost located outside an Urban Flying-fox Management Area? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Are there flying-foxes:
 - a. Within the roost tree being destroyed / modified? Yes ☐ No ☒
 - b. Near to the roost tree being destroyed/modified and likely to be harmed? Yes ☐ No ☒
3. Do any flying-foxes appear to have been killed/injured as a result of the management actions? Yes ☐ No ☒

If management actions are being undertaken to attempt to drive away flying-foxes from a roost:

4. Are management actions being undertaken that are not based on the advice of a person knowledgeable about flying-fox behaviour, or with such a person present? Yes ☐ No ☐
5. Are the management actions occurring other than in the early evening (within 2 hours from dusk fly-out) or the early morning (within 3 hours of flying-foxes returning to the roost)? Yes ☐ No ☐
6. Are any management actions being undertaken other than the non-lethal deterrents of smoke, noise, light foggers, BirdFrite or 'scarecrow' type devices? Yes ☐ No ☐

If **Yes** to any of the above questions:

- **Direct that roost management actions be immediately suspended.** These roost management actions are not compliant with the Code.
- Management actions must not resume until an EHP officer is satisfied future management actions will be undertaken in accordance with the Code.
- Should a flying-fox have been injured as a result of the management actions, direct local government to seek immediate care from an authorised wildlife carer or veterinarian inoculated against Australian Bat Lyssavirus.

EHP officer:	49-Sch4	Date:	21/5/14
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From: HOTCHKIS Debra [Debra.Hotchkis@ehp.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 30 May 2014 3:55 PM
To: WILLIAMS Rebecca
CC: ARMBRUSTER Christine
Subject: RE: Cairns roost management actions on 20 May 2014

Beck,

Please find below details of my observations during tree modification at the Cairns Library on the 20th May 2014, to my recollection I did not witness any breaches of the Code of Practice – Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts during these activities.

1. Once fly-out was complete both myself and David (the council contracted spotter catcher) went from tree to tree with torches looking for any flying-fox left in either the crèche or bus shelter trees
2. Only one was found and it was located high up on the library side of the crèche tree
3. I spoke to Russell and told him he could start on the bus shelter tree as there were no flying-fox present there but he could not start pruning the crèche tree until the flying-fox had left
4. I saw the light on the far side of the tree however I didn't consider it threatening the flying-fox but more keeping track of it, as once it moved it would be impossible to find again
5. I witnessed no shaking of the tree prior to its departure
6. I did not witness the left side (from the car park view) of the crèche tree being cut at this time (this would have been slightly to the left of my view), they were however were cutting the bus shelter tree then, which was approx. 10 meters to my left (facing the crèche tree) from where I was located
7. David (the spotter-catcher) continually patrolled the area the whole time and kept advising me on how he thought things were going and what he saw
8. I did not witness the crèche tree being pruned while the flying-fox was present
9. I was approximately 35 – 40 meters away with an alright line of sight except for it being dark due to the time of night
10. I left when the tree pruning had finished, the cherry pickers were packed up and the council staff were working on cleaning the pathways and the filling in the trucks track marks in the soft ground.

I also completed and forwarded a checklist to you on the 21st which detailed the events of the night of the 20th May, again I did not witness any breaches of the Code as listed above.

Regards

Deb

Deb Hotchkis

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