

**EN1 – Public Consultation of the Draft Stonequarry Creek Flying Fox Camp Management Plan**

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232427

TRIM 9082

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to inform Council that the draft Stonequarry Creek Flying Fox Camp Management Plan has been prepared by Ecosure.
- That Council resolve that the Draft Stonequarry Creek Flying Fox Management Plan is on public exhibition for feedback for 28 days commencing 15 January 2018.
- That Councils receives a Final Report for adoption post exhibition period which summarises any submissions made, any plan amendments and a schedule of actions proposed.

**REPORT**

In late 2013, a group of endangered Grey Headed Flying Foxes set up camp on Stonequarry Creek between the Viaduct and the Prince Street Bridge. The camp appeared not long after the Halls Road fire of October 2013. The camp fluctuates seasonally depending on local food resources and numbers since then have ranged from 0 to 8,500. The Environmental Outcomes team count the camp numbers on a quarterly basis and this information is submitted to the national flying fox counting program.

Council staff have received a number of calls and emails from residents neighbouring the camp raising concerns about the camp and we have also undertaken a survey targeting residents of the area to gather specific information about their concerns.

The key results from the survey were:

- 87% of the respondents identified that the odour from the camp had an important to extremely important impact on their household.
- 87% of the respondents identified that excrement had an important to extremely important impact on their household.
- Respondents identified the following direct impacts as follows.
  - Clothes line 71%
  - Disturbed sleep 57%
  - Car 57%
  - Rainwater Tanks 43%
  - Trees 43%
  - Driveway / Outdoor Area 29%
  - Swimming Pool 14%.

Caring for the Environment  
 Report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 11 December 2017

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As the Grey Headed Flying Fox is an endangered species and protected on a State and National basis, any intervention with the flying foxes and their habitat requires approval from the Office of Environment and Heritage and actions for camp management must be part of an approved flying fox camp management plan.

Council received a funding grant from LGNSW to engage a consultant to prepare the plan and Ecosure have prepared the draft plan.

The plan identifies a number of recommended actions for managing the camp and the actions are separated into levels 1, 2 and 3. With Level 1 - being routine camp management options, level 2 - in situ management, level 3 - disturbance or dispersal. Generally, the level 1 options are low cost and easily achievable and level 3 are last resort options.

Environment



**Map 4: Potential management areas**  
 Wollondilly Shire Council  
 Stonequarry Creek Camp Management Plan

- Maximum known extent February 2016
- Approximate camp extent July 2017
- Potential buffer area (weed removal only)
- Additional area for improvement (Crown Land)
- Current restoration area (Crown Land)
- Lot

**ecosure** Job number: PR2776 Revision: 0 Author: A.S.M. Date: 20/06/2017 GDA 1984 MGA Zone 56 Projection: Transverse Mercator Datum: GDA 1984 Units: Meter

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**CONSULTATION**

Council have consulted with the Office of Environment and Heritage, LGNSW and Ecosure.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A funding \$7,500 grant was received from LGNSW to have the plan prepared. At this stage, no funding has been secured to fund the actions of the plan as this will need to be determined once the plan is adopted.

**ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET**

1. Draft Stonequarry Creek Flying Fox Camp Management Plan
2. Community Survey responses

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Draft Stonequarry Creek Flying Fox Camp Management Plan be placed on Public Exhibition for 28 days from Monday 15 January 2018.
2. That Council receives a Final Report for adoption post exhibition period which summarises any submissions made, any plan amendments and a schedule of actions proposed.