

submitted the survey 'Questionnaire' with the responses below.

What works well in the proposed policy for managing flying-foxes?

I believe local Councils working with the Community on Flying Fox camp management is good.

What could be improved?

Our Nambucca Shire Council has limited funds. A grant for reforestation at the flying fox roost where the canopy is being depleted would be of great help plus information on the best way to go about this. Reforestation has of flying fox roosts has been achieved in Wingham in NSW and Hervey Bay in Qld. Both towns have turned the 'bat problem' into a tourist attraction.

From your experience are there other things that could be included?

More education should be available to the public on the benefits of a flying fox roost. Many people are under the false impression that the flying foxes are a health risk to the community. They believe diseases can be passed on from the bat faeces. Education is also needed for children in particular to not handle an injured flying fox and, if, in the most unlikely event of being bitten people need to know to wash the affected area and to take the victim to hospital to obtain a series of vaccinations.

Any other comments?

There has been a push in our local community for permission to be granted to move the bats on. It has already been proven that this is both costly and ineffective. Education is needed to understand the role of the flying fox plays in our ecology and that they are in no way a threat to people's health. The 'anti bat' lobby in our town of Nambucca Heads has grossly exaggerated the noise, smell and mess created by the flying foxes all of which are mostly contained in the roost area and little evidence can be found on the nearby tennis courts, boardwalks and nearby Woolworth's car park as has been claimed. I believe horse owners should be required to have their horses vaccinated against the Hendra Virus.

About you

Optional

Name

Celia Ramsay