

APPENDIX D

Summarised history of the Kareela flying-fox camp

Date	Event
29/06/2007	Works associated with the construction of the Kurnell desalination plant commenced.
Summer 2007-2008	Large numbers of GHFF appeared at the Kareela site, which coincided with the abandonment of the Kurnell camp and works undertaken at the desalination plant.
1/10/2009	In an attempt to limit conflict/impacts from the camp, Council pruned all of the occupied branches that overhung the schools. The aim was to prevent any GHFF from roosting in the vegetation that directly overhung the schools' grounds. This represented the maximum extent of ameliorative works that Council felt could be undertaken without the need to apply for state and federal approvals and licences.
July 2009 – December 2009	Royal Botanical Gardens Flying-fox Team conducted counts at Kareela and estimated the camp contained between 1650 and 3000 individual GHFFs.
January 2010 – September 2010	Royal Botanical Gardens Flying-fox Team conducted regular counts at Kareela and estimated the camp numbers to fluctuate between a low of 570 to a July peak of 12,000 individual GHFFs.
1/09/2010	Council lodged an s.91 application to NPWS to clear the vegetation from the north-west boundary to create a buffer that would separate the camp from the schools. The works involved the removal of 0.15 ha of vegetation and compensatory plantings elsewhere in the reserve in attempt to re-create habitat for the species that is located away from the schools.
1/10/2010	The s.91 licence application was successful and a s95 certificate was granted by OEH to clear vegetation and create the buffer. Vegetation clearing works undertaken by Council.
1/12/2011	Council engaged contractors to undertake vegetation management works at Kareela in compliance with s.95 conditions that include offsetting the lost vegetation that was cleared from the northern edge of the camp to create a habitat buffer separating the Sylvanvale an Bates Drive Special School from the camp.
Winter 2012	Kareela flying-fox camp emptied completely of its own accord, likely due to spotted gum flowering on the South Coast and in the Hunter
Spring 2012	Kareela flying-fox camp became occupied again
1/05/2013	Consultants Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (ELA) were engaged to prepare a Plan of Management for the Kareela GHFF camp.
10/02/2014	Final Plan of Management completed 30 Jan 2014 and endorsed by Council on 10 Feb 2014 (see EHR070-14). Recommendations included that the Working Party meet to identify appropriate actions from the PoM for on-ground implementation in coming months and to source funding for this implementation. These actions were resolved as a result of the decision not to disperse the camp at the present time, in keeping with the Final POM recommendations.
23/05/2014	Council's S.91 Application to clear vegetation at the GHFF camp to remove 60% of vegetation from the flying-fox camp reserve creating a buffer between adjacent residential properties and schools and the camp submitted to OEH by Ian Drinnan.
26/05/2014	Referral from Sutherland Shire Council under the EPBC Act relating to a proposal to 'remove 60% of the vegetation from the Kareela Grey-headed Flying Fox camp to create a buffer to minimise the risk to students at three nearby facilities for intellectually disabled children and adults' submitted to Federal Dept of Environment by Ian Drinnan.
24/06/2014	BWN013-14 – Council resolved that in anticipation of Council receiving approvals from both the Federal and State Government to proceed with Stage 2 of the Management Plan to remove bats from Kareela, \$125,000 be allocated to remove up to 60% of the vegetation from within the camp and that the funds be provided from efficiencies and savings in the 2014/15 Budget.
24/06/2014	Federal Dept of Environment allows increased buffer as per council's Referral of 26/5/14 by declaring that it is not a "controlled" action under the EBPC Act.
2/07/2014	OEH grants S95(2) Certificate approval to create a 20m vegetation buffer at GHFF Camp (as opposed to Council's request of 60% veg removal in their S91 application). OEH also directed council to implement all actions in Step 1 and 2 of POM, and if that fails, then to make application to disperse the camp.
21 st July to 6 th August 2014	Vegetation Removal works undertaken by council at night from 21 st July to 6 th August 2014 excluding weekends. Clearing works were completed evening of 6 August, 2014 with just mulching and weed spraying to be done. A 20m buffer was created between school, residents and roosting habitat as per OEH licence
21/11/2014	Council notified of flying-foxes roosting in Sylvanvale Trees and flying over ground several times a day. Seemed to happen from 20 th – 24 th November, a time when Sydney experienced an unusual heatwave for the time of year..P Biswell visited Sylvanvale with Rodney Armistead (Eco Logical consultant) to discuss the issues.
30/04/2015	Draft Dispersal Plan completed by Council staff with input from Eco Logical consultant Rodney Armistead and Royal Botanic Gardens staff John Martin
30/04/2015	Council applied for a S91 license from OEH to disperse the Kareela flying-fox camp. OEH had asked that the S91 application be submitted by the end of April
7/05/2015	Council applied for a referral under the EPBC act to DotE to disperse the Kareela Flying-fox Camp. T
25/05/2015	CCL051-15 Council received a report asking for a decision to be made on dispersal verses managing community impacts on ground, Council resolved to pursue dispersal
15/06/2015	Council received a notification from DotE that dispersal was not a "controlled action" if conducted in accordance with the Dispersal Plan and 4 measures provided by DotE attached. Dispersal was limited to from Kareela and no dispersal on from other sites was allowed without further consents
17/06/2015	Final Dispersal Plan completed following input from DotE and OEH conditions and comments
22/06/2015	EHR111-15 report to special EHR asking if dispersal is to be undertaken in 2015 or 2016 winter. Council staff recommended that dispersal be undertaken in 2016 after applying for further approvals from DotE in order to carry out complete and potentially successful and less risky dispersal. Council voted to approve dispersal this year. Report resolution was objected to and report to be reviewed by Council 29 June 2015
29/06/2015	EHR111-15 report to full council as above. The Council voted to commence dispersal as soon as possible, Mayor and the GM to negotiate conditions and cost of license, funding be sought from state and federal government
30/06/2015	Council received a section 95(2) certificate allowing dispersal actions at Kareela if conducted in accordance with 44 conditions of consent from OEH

31/08/2015	EHR011-16 Initial 30 day dispersal met with success of 85% of camp dispersed. Council to pursue continued dispersal until 2016 and move to maintenance dispersal from 1/9/2015. upon cessation of 30 day dispersal residents within 500m to receive letter/email, updates to residents/schools other camp managers within 30km.
31/03/2016	Stanwell Tops conference centre had an influx of GHFF, on site inspection counted approximately 200. Informed all left around 22/4/16
30/05/2016	Influx of GHFF at Kareela, possibly travelling back from Hunter and South coast after spotted gum and bloodwood flowering.
2/07/2016	Camellia Gardens flying-fox camp established. The camp was occupied from 2nd July to 19th September and then again from 28th October onwards. A brief noise dispersal was attempted with OEHL approval from mid August 2016 to the end of August 2016 and the GHFF ignored these attempts and stayed. Dispersal was deemed unsuccessful and observations of the GHFF continued. It was suspected at this stage that a food shortage was occurring but OEHL did not confirm this at the time
	GHFF attempting to occupy Kareela from 30 May to 21 November when the food shortage was declared
16/08/2016	Confirmed by Geoff Francis (local resident) that Myles Dunphy temporary flying-fox camp at Oatley was occupied again
30/08/2016	Kurnell Desalination plant flying-fox camp was inspected and found to contain 80-100 individuals.
21/11/2016	<p>PLN002-17 Asking Council for further funds to maintain a successful dispersal. Resolutions: 1. Funds of \$130,000 for 2016-17 be allocated in the December budget review, to ensure that the dispersal remains successful.</p> <p>2. Funds of \$120,000 for 2017-18 be allocated to ensure that the future dispersal activities are adequately funded.</p> <p>3. Council progress, as a priority, the Kareela Flying-fox Camp Master Plan.</p>
21/11/2016	Food shortage formally declared by OEHL (Ray Giddins). All dispersal activities were ceased due to conditions of consent of S91 licence stating that no dispersal during or directly after a food shortage
23/02/2017	A camp of GHFF was discovered just off Captain Cook Drive at the end of Elouera Rd adjacent the expanded wetland for Shearwater development. Around 100 observed on first inspection
6/03/2017 - Committees, 20/3/17 Full Council	<p>PLN018-17 Formally informing Council of the suspension of Council's dispersal licence for the Kareela Flying-fox Camp by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEHL) due to a food shortage for flying-foxes in the eastern states of Australia. This report also presents options for future flying fox management at the Kareela Flying-fox Camp and Camellia Gardens. Resolutions: 1. The current suspension of Council's flying fox dispersal licence be noted.</p> <p>2. The uncertainty and risk of failure involved in conducting future dispersal actions at the Kareela and Camellia Gardens flying fox camps be acknowledged.</p> <p>3. Council progress, as a priority, the Kareela Flying-fox Camp Master Plan, which will provide a long term vision for the Kareela site to make it less attractive long term as a flying-fox roosting habitat.</p> <p>4. Council provide a long and short term reduction of amenity impacts on directly affected residential and non-government facilities by utilising current unexpended dispersal funds to match the Local Government NSW \$25,000 Grant.</p> <p>5. In consultation and discussion with the Principal and P&C, Council provides such assistance as it is able to reduce the long term and short term amenity impacts of Kareela Flying Fox colony on Bates Drive School.</p> <p>6. Council calls upon the MP for Miranda, Ms Eleni Petinos to make urgent and appropriate representations to the relevant State Ministers (including Health, Education and Environment) for:</p> <p>(i) additional funding to assist Bates Drive School and Council with the management of the growing Kareela Flying Fox Colony, in the short term; and</p> <p>(ii) the restoration of the Council's licence to disperse the colonies, in the longer term.</p> <p>7. Council calls upon the Federal MP for Hughes, Mr Craig Kelly, to make urgent and appropriate representations to the relevant Federal Ministers for:</p> <p>(i) funding to assist Bates Drive School and Council with the management of the growing Kareela Flying Fox Colony in the short term;</p> <p>(ii) the restoration of Council's licence to disperse the Kareela Flying Fox colony in the longer term;</p> <p>(iii) consideration of the reclassification of Grey Headed Flying Foxes.</p>
14/03/2017	Meeting with Sylvanvale and Bates Drive School Staff, updates on Kareela Master Plan shared and possible amenity improvement actions to be funded by match grant funding discussed
11/04/2017	Received LG NSW Grant for amenity impact reduction grants for residents adjacent Kareela
12/04/2017	Applied for EPBC referral for dispersal as Kareela & Camellia Gardens for winter 2017 including some vegetation removal at Kareela
1/05/2017	Received \$27,000 LG NSW grant for amenity impact reductions at directly affected residents and schools to be matched by Council
23/06/2017	EPA approval to burn for FF dispersal granted
19/05/2017	Myles Dunphy flying-fox camp emptied
25/05/2017	Kareela flying-fox camp emptied completely of its own accord

5/06/2017	<p>PLN041-17 Resolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff prepare a report on the criteria of the use of the grant money including how the money would be allocated and the criteria for residents and nongovernment facilities receiving the grant money. 2. In consultation and discussion with the Principal and P&C, Council provides such assistance as it is able to reduce the long term and short term amenity impacts of Kareela Flying Fox colony on Bates Drive School. 3. Council progress and seek approval for the Kareela Flying-fox Camp Master Plan as a priority, with the aim of permanently reducing the habitat available for roosting within proximity of houses and adjacent schools, and the consequential impacts. 4. Council monitor the camps at both Kareela and Camellia Gardens and if either camp is voluntarily abandoned, Council takes action to discourage the reformation of a camp at that site.
19/06/2017	OEH gave approval for maintenance dispersal to recommence at Kareela. Flying-foxes are not present currently anyway but observation of the camp can continue
20/06/2017	OEH granted approval S95(2) certificate to remove vegetation at the Kareela camp to create 50m buffer between adjacent residential property boundaries and school playground boundaries and the roosting habitat
20/07/2017	Found Captain Cook Drive camp empty
1/08/2017	Vegetation removal works undertaken by Council during the day from 1st August to 17th August (no flying-foxes present). Vegetation for 1m either side of the creekline and within 50m of residential and school playground boundaries was removed. The 20m buffer created by Council in 2014 which was revegetated in 2015 was retained
19/09/2017	Desalination plant flying-fox camp confirmed empty, Kurnell 350ha fire was 10 days before the camp was checked
9/10/2017	Revegetation works started in buffer area at Kareela by Southern Habitat. Works include weeding, mulching, bank stabilisation and replanting in a mosaic/clump pattern
19/10/2017	Flying-foxes returned to Kareela, numbers 500-600
30/10/2017	Flying-foxes returned to Myles Dunphy at Oatley confirmed by Geoff Francis
2/11/2017	Desalination plant flying-fox camp confirmed occupied again after emptying last month following the fire
2/11/2017	Camellia Gardens Draft Camp Management Plan has been prepared. It will go to Council 11th December and the plan is to exhibit it in February after school holidays are over. A communications plan will accompany the CMP to Council for endorsement