

From: Frisby Tony [Tony.Frisby@ehp.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2013 10:08 AM
To: Brien Matt
Subject: FW: Charters Towers Observations from site assessment 06/12/13

FYI

Regards,
Tony

Tony Frisby
Senior Ranger – Wildlife Management Operations
Department of Environment and Heritage protection

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From: Williams Rebecca
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2013 9:33 AM
To: Frisby Tony
Cc: Armbruster Christine
Subject: RE: Charters Towers Observations from site assessment 06/12/13

Tony

Please note that any EHP officer can suspend operations.

It is Council's requirement to have a vaccinated vet or carer on call. We don't have to check beforehand but if needed they need to have on call or else it is a breach of conditions.

Regards

Beck

From: Armbruster Christine
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2013 2:21 PM
To: Williams Rebecca
Subject: Charters Towers Observations from site assessment 06/12/13

Hi Beck

Tony was enquiring whether a

Wildlife Ranger with Conservation Officer powers is the **only** officer with the power to suspend a dispersal?

Tony is planning at being at Mission Beach giving a Wallabies talk. No other Wildlife Ranger that has been directed to attend the dispersal that is a Conservation Officer – at this point

If the dispersal needs to be suspended, can Tony give this instruction by phone?

Mic Langburne at Charters Towers Regional Council (MLangburne@charterstowers.qld.gov.au), The council conservation

officer will also NOT be present for the dispersal.

Wildlife carer does have a Wildlife Rehab License for macropods (NOT Flying-foxes) – Tony has advised Matt this is a Council issue – we won't get involved in, it is the Council's responsibility to ensure that all conditions of the permit is met. I did tell Tony that the rational behind this condition is to ensure that an ABL inoculated person was present to rescue bats. I didn't think that wildlife carers who don't look after bats, would be inoculated.

Yes there are dependant black young, but they are over in a corner, separate from the LR. Young under wing & creched young – 200approx

FF 500-700 black, have imcreased. 20 – 30 mixed groups into the roost

CT have advised that they will proceed with the proposed dispersal on Monday but start at furthest end away from young.

Approx 20 dead flying-foxes were sited within Lissner Park, this number will be confirmed.

I did tell Tony that I had 9 conservation bodies letters that I have to respond to today.

regards

Christine Armbruster

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ehp-email-signature



RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

Charters Towers Dispersal 9/12/2014

EHP staff present: Matthew Brien (005), Karen Dabinett (005), Wade Kelly (003)

17:35: Arrived, council had cordoned off park, no public allowed in.

17:45: Dispersal activities commenced: car horns, paint ball guns aimed at trees, smoke/foggers.

17:55: 2 choppers arrived, fireworks (no shells) let off in open spaces beside trees; fire hoses aimed at trees. Directed Wade to observe and monitor fireworks and paintballs and Karen to observe and monitor fire hoses. I remained in the middle of the park to monitor entire situation and to liaise with Council (Mark Crawley, Ramon Jayo, and council appointed vet vaccinated against ABLV).

18:00: Received phone call that 1xfemale black FFox with baby had landed on the ground outside Lissner Park and was in the hands of wildlife carers (unknown). I asked for the location, and directed the council vet to take the FFoxes into care in order to assess and treat any potential injuries.

18:05: I observed council vet talking with people at the edge of the park. He then returned and informed me that they had a FFox wrapped up in blanket/towel but refused to hand it over.

18:05: Notified by Karen that Fire hoses were aimed at trees too high near bats, Karen and myself instructed council staff to aim lower, council complied.

18:10: Notified by Wade that paint balls were aimed at trees too close to bats, Wade instructed them to aim lower, council complied.

18:50: All 3 EHP officers (Matt, Karen, Wade) walked entire park, 5-10 little reds dead but >2 days old on ground/in trees, no fresh dead or injured bats found.

19:00: Council ceased dispersal as majority of bats gone, public allowed access, EHP left. I briefed the Director and Senior ranger by phone of the events that occurred before departing Charters Towers.

At no time did myself or my team witness or observe a FFox get injured or die as a result of dispersal activities. At no time was I provided with evidence that a FFox had been injured by dispersal activities. Charters Towers City Council was compliant with their FFRMP throughout the dispersal.

Situation Report

Charters Towers Regional Council
Flying Fox Dispersal 2013 (Lissner Park)
Under New Management Policy

Date:	10/12/13	Time:	Depart TSV- 4:00AM
Time	Activity	Persons	Result
5:30	Dispersal activities commenced including: 2 x helicopters, fogger, smoke, fire hose, fireworks	Council	
6:00	Arrived, council had cordoned off Lissner park, no public allowed in.	Matt Sally	Addressed safety issues and minimised risks to both people and animals
6:10	Sweep of park conducted.	Matt Sally	No evidence of injured, orphaned or deceased flying foxes
6:25	Lissner Park using 2 x helicopters, 2 x fire hoses and rounds of fireworks (no shells)	Matt Sally	Most flying foxes in the air, some still in trees. Blacks with young, moving to North of park and adjacent residential streets.
6:40	Plant Street (North of Charters Towers) – 2 x smoke machine vehicles and 2 x helicopters	Matt Sally	No flying foxes appear to be present in trees at this location.
6:45	33 Hackett Terrace – paintball gun (noise only), fogger, 1 x smoke machine vehicle	Matt Sally	Approximately 200 bats in trees above residential homes
6:55	Sweep of park conducted.	Matt Sally	No evidence of injured, orphaned or deceased flying foxes. Young black flying foxes observed in trees.
7:00	Council ceased dispersal	Matt Sally	Majority of bats dispersed, public allowed access, EHP officers departed. Approximately 200 flying foxes moving back towards trees in Lissner Park.

Situation Report

OTHER NOTES

- Flying foxes were moving in a northerly direction for approximately one kilometre into adjacent residential streets. Council deployed staff to these locations and continued operations.
- During dispersal activities there were several hundred Black flying-foxes observed in flight carrying young.
- There were approximately 500 black flying foxes with young under wing/dependent young in a group of trees at Lissner Park. Council avoided targeting dispersal activities at this particular site.
- Some independent young left in trees at Lissner Park after the dispersal ceased. No evidence of any orphaned flying foxes. Black flying foxes observed returning to trees that had young.

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

File Note

File Reference: TBA

Date: 09/12/2013

File Name: Charters Towers Regional Council (CTRC) Flying– Fox dispersal

Subject (Detail): EHP compliance of CTRC flying fox dispersal under permit WIFF13807313, Lissner Park, Charters Towers – Matthew Brien (EHP)

I (005 Wildlife Ranger Matthew Brien) arrived at Lissner Park, Charters Towers, along with wildlife rangers Karen Dabinett (005), and Wade Kelly (003), at approx. 17:35 to undertake compliance during the dispersal of Flying foxes (reds and blacks) from Lissner Park by CTRC who were operating under permit WIFF13807313. Upon arrival, CTRC had cordoned off the park and prevented public access. Police were on hand, along with dozens of people operating under the guidance of CTRC within the park. Hundreds of people lined the streets. We (EHP) entered the park and were greeted by Mark Crawley (CEO), Ramon Jayo, Bill Hussey, and a vet with ABLV vaccination appointed by CTRC (name forgotten). At around 17:45 CTRC commenced dispersal activities, which included car horns, paint ball guns aimed at trees, and smoke/foggers. At 17:55, two choppers arrived, fireworks (no shells) were let off in open spaces beside trees and fire hoses were aimed at trees. I (Matthew Brien) directed Wade Kelly to observe and monitor fireworks and paintball activities in one section of the park, and Karen to observe and monitor fire hoses in another section. I remained in the middle of the park to monitor entire situation and to liaise with Council (Mark Crawley, Ramon Jayo, and council appointed vet vaccinated against ABLV). At around 18:00 I received a phone call from a lady that told me 1xfemale black flying fox with a baby had landed on the ground outside Lissner Park and was in the hands of wildlife carers (unknown). I asked for the location, and directed the council vet to take any flying foxes into care in order to assess and treat any potential injuries. At 18:05, I observed the council vet talking with people at the edge of the park. He then returned and informed me that they had a flying fox wrapped up in a blanket/towel but refused to hand it over. At 18:05, Karen informed me that fire hoses that were aimed at trees were getting too close to the bats. Karen and myself then instructed council staff to aim lower and not at animals, which they did. At around 18:10, Wade informed me that paint balls that were aimed at trees were getting too close to bats. Wade and myself instructed them to aim lower and not near bats and council staff complied. At around 18:50, all EHP officers (Matt, Karen, Wade) walked through the entire park to check for any injured or dead flying foxes. We counted 5-10 little reds dead but >2 days old on ground/in trees, and no freshly dead or injured bats were found. At 19:00, CTRC ceased dispersal activities as the majority of bats had left, and the public were allowed access to the park. EHP staff (Matt, Karen, Wade) left Lissner Park at around 19:05. I (Matthew Brien) briefed the Director and Senior ranger by phone of the events that occurred before departing Charters Towers.

At no time did myself or my team witness or observe a flying fox get injured or die as a result of dispersal activities. At no time was I provided with evidence that a flying fox had been injured or killed by dispersal activities. Charters Towers City Council was compliant with the conditions of their permit (WIFF13807313) throughout the dispersal.

Author: Matthew Brien
Position: 005 Wildlife Ranger
Unit/Office: Townsville Wildlife Management Operations

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Phone:

RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

File Note

File Reference: TBA

Date: 10/12/2013

File Name: Charters Towers Regional Council (CTRC) Flying– Fox dispersal

Subject (Detail): EHP compliance of CTRC flying fox dispersal under permit WIFF13807313, Lissner Park, Charters Towers – Matthew Brien (EHP)

I (005 Wildlife Ranger Matthew Brien) arrived at Lissner Park, Charters Towers, along with wildlife ranger Sally Morris (004), at approx. 6:00 to undertake compliance during the dispersal of Flying foxes (reds and blacks) from Lissner Park by CTRC who were operating under permit WIFF13807313. Upon arrival, CTRC had cordoned off the park and prevented public access. Police were on hand, along with dozens of people operating under the guidance of CTRC within the park. We had a brief conversation regarding compliance with CTRC Mark Crawley, Ramon Jayo, and council appointed vet. Dispersal activities at Lissner Park included 2 helicopters, 2 fire hoses and rounds of fireworks (no shells). A sweep of the park on foot did not reveal any injured or freshly dead flying foxes. As most flying foxes had left the park and some had apparently moved into the neighbourhood, we decided to monitor events in the streets at around. At 6:25, we headed over to Plant Street (North of Lissner Park) where 2 smoke machines were used along with helicopters. At 33 Hackett Terrace, CTRC staff were using paint ball guns (noise only no paintballs) and a fogger machine to try and move approx. 200 bats from backyards. No flying foxes were observed injured or dead. We returned to Lissner Park at 6:55 to sweep the park again for injured, orphaned or freshly dead bats, none could be found. At 7:00, CTRC ceased dispersal activities.

At no time did I observe a flying fox get injured or die as a result of dispersal activities. At no time was I provided with evidence that a flying fox had been injured or killed by dispersal activities. Charters Towers City Council was compliant with the conditions of their permit (WIFF13807313) throughout the dispersal.

Author: Matthew Brien
Position: ?? Wildlife Ranger
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