

Flying fox management, Narangba

Engagement Summary

March 2026

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CITY OF MORETON BAY

Acknowledgment of Traditional Custodians

City of Moreton Bay acknowledges the Jinibara, Kabi Kabi and Turrbal peoples and pays respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. Council recognises that City of Moreton Bay has always been a place of cultural, spiritual, social and economic significance to its Traditional Custodians. Council is committed to reconciliation and working in partnership with Traditional Custodians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to shape a shared future for the benefit of all communities within the city and beyond.



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A way forward in flying fox colony management

Since 2021, there's been ongoing community concern about a flying fox colony roosting in parkland beside New Settlement Road, Narangba. Our teams have been managing the site and are now exploring a longer-term approach using "canopy-mounted sprinklers" (see figure 1 for details). To help guide this work, we invited nearby residents to share their feedback on the proposal.

Flying foxes, also known as fruit bats, are the largest flying mammals on earth. Three species live in City of Moreton Bay: black flying fox, grey headed flying fox and little red flying fox (nomadic). All three species have been recorded roosting in the New Settlement Road, Narangba parkland.

They are native animals and the Queensland State Nature Conservation Act (1992) protects all three species. Grey-headed flying-foxes are additionally protected under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. We take a balanced approach to flying fox roost management by supporting residents' wellbeing while maintaining responsible wildlife management. You can find out more about our approach to managing flying foxes in our Statement of Management Intent <moretonbay.link/flying-fox-somi>.

Engagement snapshot

Between 12 January and 6 February 2026, we ran an online survey to seek resident feedback on the proposed "canopy-mounted sprinkler" management approach. We had:

577 webpage views

67 online survey contributions

3 emails received

Some common feedback we heard

- residents living adjacent to the parkland want immediate relief from the daily impacts of the colony (excessive noise, sleep disturbance and smell)
- residents emphasised the importance of habitat protection and are generally supportive of our current management approach, which maintains the roost without displacing flying foxes (i.e. tree trimming)
- residents are generally supportive of the proposed management approach but are concerned about where the colony would go.

How we engaged

Directly impacted residents were invited to provide their feedback via an online survey, available on a Your Say Moreton Bay (YSMB) project webpage. The page also included:

- information about flying foxes existing in our city
- management approaches used to date
- detailed information about the new management proposal
- frequently asked questions.

We used a range of tools to promote engagement across 4 weeks, including:

- mailed letter sent to properties directly adjacent to the colony
- paid social media campaign geo-targeted to Narangba residents
- project webpage on YSMB platform
- corflute signage erected at two entries to the parkland where the colony currently exists (Boonjee Close and Jardine Place).

The online survey was targeted to residents living alongside the parkland. To verify responses, respondents were asked to provide their current street name. If Boonjee, Jardine, Forest Ridge, Butcherbird or Tamborine streets were identified, respondents were asked additional questions about the proposed management approach.



Corflute signage placed on one of the entries to the parkland on Jardine Place, Narangba

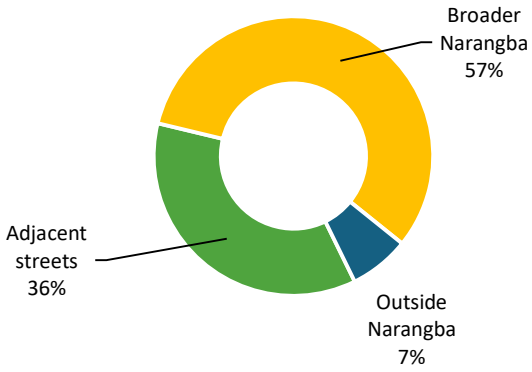


Figure 1: Map of parkland highlighted to show surrounding streets and the potential sprinkler locations.

What we heard

Survey participants

Of the 67 online surveys submitted, 24 respondents live on the streets directly adjacent to the parkland closest to the colony (see map of parkland above).



Residential location of survey respondents

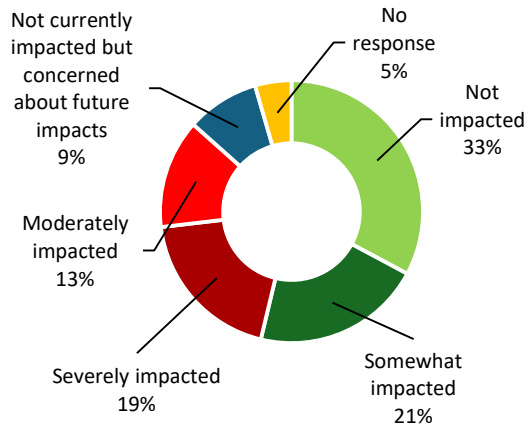
Just over half of respondents resided on other streets in Narangba, indicating broader interest in this flying fox colony.

"On the surface this would seem to be a good solution. Whilst I don't live in a street impacted by the colony, I do regularly use the paths through the colony and so empathise with residents' concerns."

Survey respondent

Impact of colony

Of the total survey respondents, 19% (13 people) told us they are currently 'severely impacted' by the colony. These respondents all live on streets adajacent to the parkland.



Current state of flying-fox colony impacts

From the 24 respondents that live on the streets directly adjacent to the parkland closest to the colony we heard:

- 54% are severely impacted (13 respondents)
- 17% are somewhat impacted (4 respondents)
- 17% are moderately impacted (4 respondents)
- 12% are not impacted (3 respondents).

Summary of impacts

Many respondents provided further insight about the impacts of the colony. These included:

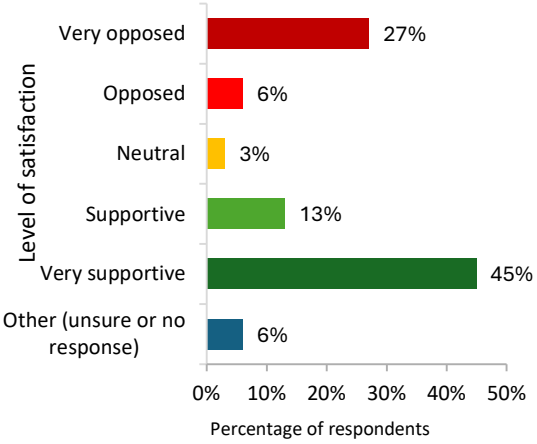
- noise disturbance day and night, particularly in the early morning and at dusk
- persistent odour in the area and health and safety concerns
- property damage due to droppings with suggestions of decreased property values
- concerns about continued colony growth.

"The number of bats flying and defecating impact on property, pool area and on cars. (They're) noisy and (we're) worried re: spread of disease. Numbers seemed to have increased."

Survey respondent

Feedback on the management proposal

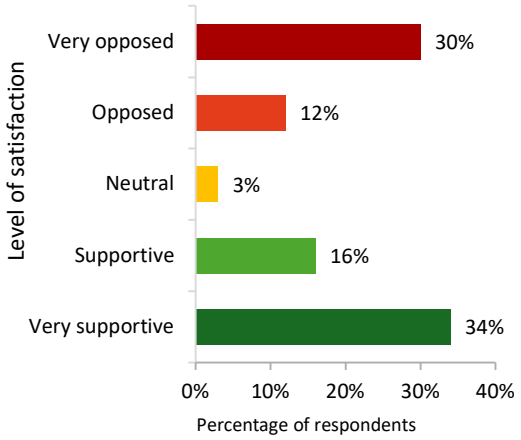
Information on the YSMB webpage explained that the suggested proposal aims to increase the distance between homes and the flying fox colony. Respondents were asked if they supported Council implementing these measures, and most (58%) indicated they were supportive or very supportive.



Survey feedback on proposal to implement a measure to increase distance between homes and colony

If Boonjee, Jardine, Forest Ridge, Butcherbird or Tamborine streets were identified, respondents received additional information about the proposed management approach. We asked whether they were supportive of us implementing this.

Exactly half of the respondents (50%) were supportive of this management approach, while 34% were very supportive and 16% were supportive.



Survey feedback on canopy-mounted sprinklers as a management approach

42% of respondents told us they were opposed to this approach. A small number (4%) selected “other” and expressed concern about harm to the colony.

When looking at the data received from the 24 respondents living adjacent to the parkland, 63% were supportive of the proposed management approach.

“(We’re) supportive of the (approach) it just moves them away from the houses, not removes them entirely and they are not harmed in any way.”

Survey respondent

Respondents had the option to ask questions about the management approach as part of the survey. These questions and our answers have been included as FAQs on a factsheet available to download on the project webpage. The topics covered by questions received in order of frequency with which they were raised, include:

- implementation timeframe
- effectiveness of the approach and where else this proposal had been trialled
- where the colony would go if the approach was effective
- animal welfare and environmental impact considerations
- no management at all (opposition to any Council intervention/ encouragement to spend money elsewhere)
- technical and operational details of the sprinkler installation
- how the effectiveness of the approach would be monitored.

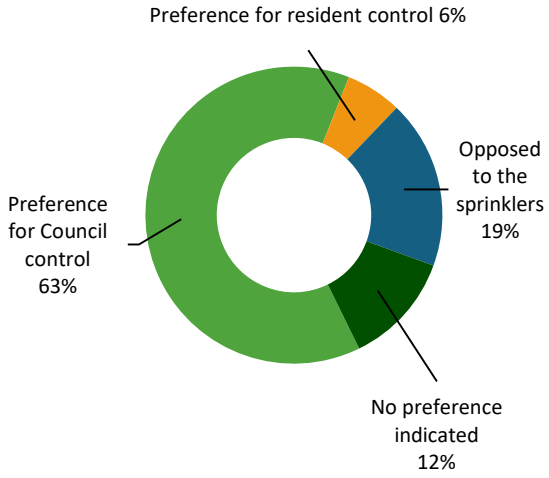
When we asked respondents if they had any further comments about the management approach, similar themes appeared such as a continued opposition to intervention, emphasis on environmental impact considerations and concerns about where flying foxes would go if the management response was successful.

“They have been there a very long time. So much development in the area means there is much less habitat on offer than previously.”

Survey respondent

Feedback on sprinkler control

Respondents who lived adjacent to the parklands were asked an additional question on the proposed sprinkler control approach. We asked if they preferred Council or resident control of the sprinklers installed behind their homes. 63% told us they would prefer Council to be in control of the sprinklers.



Directly impacted residents feedback on sprinkler control

Next steps

Our Environmental Services department is currently reviewing all feedback received in this consultation process to finalise a proposed direction for the management of the Narangba flying fox colony, and colonies more widely across City of Moreton Bay. This approach will be presented to Council for feedback. Timeframes and next steps will be shared publicly once decisions have been made. We thank you for your support and participation in this consultation process.