

1. Purpose of this Protocol

This protocol ensures that anyone involved in works near flying-fox camps understands what to do if they find an injured, sick, or orphaned flying-fox. The development of the protocol is a mandatory step before commencement of any vegetation buffer works in accordance with the Wollondilly Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2024.

The protocol is designed to:

- **Protect animal welfare** – make sure flying-foxes get professional care quickly,
- **Keep people safe** – minimise risks from Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV), and
- **Comply with legislation** – meet obligations under the Biodiversity Conservation Act and WHS Act.

This protocol has been developed in accordance with the [NSW Code of Practice for Injured, Sick and Orphaned Flying-foxes](#).

Further information about the Grey-headed Flying Fox can be found on Councils [website](#).



2. When to Use This Protocol

- During vegetation clearing, buffer maintenance, or tree works near flying-fox camps.
- When an injured, sick, or dead flying-fox is found on Council land or work sites.
- When members of the public report a flying-fox in distress.

3. Who Should Follow It

- Council staff.
- Contractors engaged by Council.
- Community volunteers and residents in close proximity to flying-fox camps, working on bushcare or restoration projects.

4. What to Do

In the event that an injured, sick or orphaned flying-fox is observed, it is advised to follow the actions below:

4.1 Stop Work and Secure the Area

- Cease all activity in the immediate area.
- Keep people and pets at least 5 meters away.

4.2 Contact a Licensed Rescue Organisation

EMERGENCY CONTACTS		
WIRES	1300 094 737	State-wide wildlife rescue
Sydney Wildlife Rescue	9413 4300	Metropolitan & surrounds
Caring Country Vets – Thirlmere	4681 8470	For emergency triage
Council Environmental Services	4677 1100	To record incident

4.3 Notify Council's Environmental Services Team

- Contact Council via – 4677 1100
- Include time, location, and photos if safe.

4.4 Wait for Rescuers

- Do not touch or handle the animal.
- Stay nearby if safe to direct animal carers.

4.5 Resume Work and/or General Activities

- Only after animal carers confirm the area is clear and safe.

5. Safety Reminders

- Never handle a flying-fox unless you are vaccinated and trained.
- Wear PPE (gloves, long sleeves, eye protection) if near the animal.
- If bitten or scratched: wash the area with soap and water for 15 minutes and call **NSW Health 1300 066 055** immediately.
- In a situation which requires emergency services, **dial 000**.