

Grey-headed Flying-foxes

A vulnerable and protected animal

The Grey-headed Flying-fox (GHFF) is a threatened species. They are exposed to several threats including clearing of roosting and foraging habitat for development and heat stress events.



Grey-headed Flying-fox

(Pteropus poliocephalus)

All flying-foxes within NSW are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NPW Act).

The GHFF is listed as vulnerable to extinction under the both the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 and the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

It is against the law to harm Grey-headed Flying-foxes or their habitat without approval.

About the Grey-headed Flying-fox

The GHFF is Australia's largest bat and inhabits the east coast of Australia in a variety of habitats including rainforests, woodlands and swamps. During the day they occupy large roosts called colonies or 'camps'.

Movements of the GHFF are influenced by the availability of food. They move in response to the blossoming of certain plant species which include eucalypts, banksias and melaleucas.

Around dusk, GHFF leave the roost and travel mostly within a 50km range at night to feed on pollen, nectar and fruit.

A key to biodiversity

Flying-foxes disperse the pollen and seeds of a wide range of native Australian plants. This plays a key role in the long term health and biodiversity of forests along the east coast of Australia.

Avoid handling flying-foxes

NSW Health states that there is no risk to the community from the flying-foxes providing that no handling or direct contact occurs.

There is no risk of virus infection from droppings or urine or if people live, play or walk near their colonies (NSW Health 2012).

Please do not disturb flying-foxes and keep them happy and healthy by staying out of the camp and not removing any vegetation.

To report injured or distressed flying-foxes contact WIRES on 1300 094 737.

