

# **Flying Fox Fauna Management**

## **Post-clearance report**

Flying Fox Fauna Management was engaged by the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association to provide fauna spotter catcher services to their tree clearance project at 9 Dunkirk Close in Arundel on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

All fauna management activities were performed under the authority of rehabilitation permit WIRP15340214 issued to Flying Fox Fauna Management by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP)

## Methodologies

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### Preclearance Inspection

Prior to any disturbance activities a thorough preclearance inspection within the clearance boundaries was undertaken. This inspection was considerate of a number of abiotic and biotic factors including; ecosystem type, time of day, time of year, temperature, vegetation type, age and density of vegetation, connectivity and the physical location of the site.

Survey methodologies include

- Terrestrial survey
  - Targeted searches for indications of occupancy of rocks and rock piles, hollow logs, bark exfoliations, scattered timber and timber piles, burrows, soil cracks and termite mounds, ground nests, dense shrubs, leaf litter and grasses.
  - Occupancy indicators include: wildlife presence, scats, tracks, slide marks, food scraps or diggings.
  - All high value habitat was clearly delineated.
  
- Arboreal
  - Visual searches for indications of occupancy of nests, hollows, exfoliating bark, fissures, dreys and arboreal termitaria.
  - Occupancy indicators include: wildlife presence, detritus (scats/scraps/hair) in the drip zone, markings or scratches to trunk, chew marks and/or smooth entries to hollows, incisions in trunk and adult presence at nests.
  - The assessment of the habitat value of all trees involved a visual search from at least three separate aspects. Assessment began at the base of the trunk and followed each branch from trunk to tip paying particular attention to all forks.
  - All koala food trees were identified.
  - All high value habitat was clearly delineated.

## **Vegetation Clearance**

The fauna spotter catcher worked alongside the machinery operator to insure tree felling was undertaken in a methodical, systematic way facilitating the best possible fauna management.

Communication between the fauna spotter catcher and machinery operator involved the use of frequent discussions and visual communications where appropriate.

The fauna spotter catcher directly supervised the felling and/or disturbance of all delineated habitat values. If no wildlife could be sighted, habitat trees were felled in a manner to cause minimal impact to features that could potentially conceal undetected fauna. The following techniques may have been utilized:

- Utilising machinery to tap or gently shake the tree to encourage any hidden fauna out of refugia
- Soft felling – pile soil or vegetation against the tree to slow or cushion its fall
- Dropping the tree in such a way as to cause minimum impact to habitat features
- Utilising the machinery to grab the root ball and slow the fall
- Selective removal of root system to direct and/or slow fall

Where fauna was present the animal/s was encouraged out of the tree and/or captured by fauna spotter.

Once the habitat tree was felled the fauna spotter catcher inspected all habitat features for the presence of fauna.

## Results

### Daily Fauna Report 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The inventory below details the onsite ecologist, the clearing location, the fauna found, the actions taken and the habitat types impacted with details as required.

Wildlife Ecologist	Elliot Wigram
Location Description and Works Particulars	Clearing works at 9 Dunkirk Close, Arundel, Qld
Description of Ecosystem	Dry sclerophyll forest. Dominant tree species include pink bloodwood ( <i>Corymbia intermedia</i> ) and blackbutt ( <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> ) with the sub-canopy consisting mainly of black wattle ( <i>Acacia leocalyx</i> ) and black sheoak ( <i>Allocasuarina littoralis</i> ).

Arboreal Habitat					
No. habitat trees marked: 6	No. habitat trees felled: 6	No. Nests:	1		
Tree hollow number and size (mm):		No. Dreys:	0		
0-100: 4	100-150: 5	150-200: 2	No. Arboreal Termite Nests:	1	
200-250:	250-300:	300+: 3	Other:		
Terrestrial Habitat (y/n)					
Woodpiles:	Y	Termite Mounds:	Y	Mulch/Leaf Litter:	Y
Hollow Logs:	Y	Rocks/Rock piles:	Y	Soil Cracks:	N
Scattered Timber:	Y	Burrows:	Y	Dense Shrubs/Grasses:	N
Aquatic Systems (y/n)					
Running/Standing Creeks:	N	Melon holes:	N		
Dry Creeks:	N	Drainage Lines:	Y		
Dams:	N	Flood Plain:	N		

Common/Scientific Name	Status	No.	GPS	Habitat Type	Action or release
Elegant Snake-eyed Skink <i>Cryptoblepharus pulcher</i>	LC	1 x adult	27.937670 153.381577	Tree Hollow	27.937998 153.380249
Common Brushtail Possum <i>Trichosurus vulpecula</i>	LC	1 x adult	27.938189 153.381119	Tree Hollow	Mortality
Blue-tongued Skink <i>Tiliqua scincoides</i>	LC	1 x adult	27.937981 153.381500	Tree Hollow	27.937954 153.380188

## Photos

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## Conclusion

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All recovered fauna were assessed for injury prior to relocation. Injured or dependent fauna were taken to a carer or veterinarian for treatment and/or rehabilitation if required.

Healthy non-dependant fauna were relocated into suitable adjacent habitat with consideration given to species-specific requirements.