



Media release

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

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FLYING-FOX PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) today announced that the management plan for Melbourne's colony of flying-foxes has been finalised and now works can commence to secure the colony at the site in Yarra Bend Park.

Simon Toop, DSE spokesperson, said that the management plan focuses on creating a long-term, sustainable flying-fox campsite that will minimise the risk of the colony relocating to inappropriate sites, such as residential areas or back to the Royal Botanic Gardens.

"The relocation project has been a fantastic success," Mr Toop said.

"No flying-foxes have roosted in the Royal Botanic Gardens for over two and a half years and this nationally threatened species is well protected in the designated twenty-six hectare section of Yarra Bend Park.

"We will manage the colony in a way that protects this threatened species and improves the natural values of the park," he said.

Community input has been incorporated into the final management plan after a draft was released for public comment and considered by a community reference group.

The five-year, \$1.7 million management plan will involve significant revegetation and weed control, the creation of artificial roost structures and a wetland and the installation of a viewing platform, paths and signage.

"Flying-foxes will always be a part of Melbourne's urban wildlife due to its year-round food supply and Yarra Bend Park provides a location where conflict with people is as low as can be expected in such a highly urbanised environment," he said.

"The management plan balances the conservation of the Grey-headed Flying-fox with the needs of park users and local residents and provides for education and tourist opportunities.

"Securing the flying-fox colony at Yarra Bend Park is a great result for the people of Melbourne for many reasons but especially because it provides protection for the Royal Botanic Gardens and other municipalities in Melbourne where there is potential for new campsites to be established," he said.

Mr Toop thanked the Yarra Bend Park Trust for their input to the management plan and said that DSE and Parks Victoria looked forward to continuing a positive partnership with the Trust in the future.

Copies of the final Flying-fox Campsite Management Plan for Yarra Bend Park are available at www.dse.vic.gov.au or via the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

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