



# Australian Wildlife Protection Council

A voice for wildlife

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

Craig Thomson  
President, Australian Wildlife Protection Council  
502 Waterfall Gully Rd  
Rosebud 3939  
[craig.awpc@gmail.com](mailto:craig.awpc@gmail.com)

Councillor  
East Gippsland Shire Council  
273 Main St  
Bairnsdale  
VIC 3875

[cr.rettino@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.rettino@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.toohey@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.toohey@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.ellis@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.ellis@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.oconnell@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.oconnell@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.buckley@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.buckley@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.pelz@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.pelz@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.reeves@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.reeves@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.roberts@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.roberts@egipps.vic.gov.au),  
[cr.white@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:cr.white@egipps.vic.gov.au)

Dear Councillor,

We are writing to you regarding the proposed 'Mitchell River Revegetation Plan' and the proposed clearing of poplar trees and ask that the plan be immediately modified to protect the roosting habitat of the Grey Headed Flying Foxes in the area.

The Grey Headed Flying Fox (GHFF) is a vulnerable species, in danger of extinction due to loss of habitat, under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. They are a species is classified as vulnerable, in danger of extinction due to loss of habitat.

The GHFF is integral to the health of our hardwood forests as they pollinate native trees, in particular Eucalyptus, Melaleuca and Banksia, and fruits of rainforest trees and vines. The AWPC considers this animal of national environmental significance.

**Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc.**  
502 Waterfall Gully Rd, Rosebud 3939 VIC  
0474 651 292 or 0425 842 618  
Registered Charity A0012224D/ ABN 85240279616  
[craig.awpc@gmail.com](mailto:craig.awpc@gmail.com); [eve.awpc@gmail.com](mailto:eve.awpc@gmail.com)  
[www.awpc.org.au](http://www.awpc.org.au); Patron The Hon Peter Singer; Hon Richard Jones

Whilst we appreciate the importance of the removal of non-native trees, in this case the poplars provide essential habitat and roosting sights for the GHFF and so need to be preserved. It would be prudent of the East Gippsland Shire Council to initiate a revegetation plan immediately, to ensure suitable habitat is established BEFORE the poplars are removed. Any concerns of community safety should also be addressed and appropriate measures e.g. fencing should be considered. This progressive planning is essential and best practice in any land management involving vulnerable species.

Whilst we realise that the GHFF colony is currently elsewhere it is worth noting that any removal of the current roosts or future dispersal regimes will certainly cause the bats to roost in unfavourable or untenable areas, such as residential or commercial zones.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Thomson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Craig Thomson  
President AWPC