

COCOS PALM REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

WHAT IS THE COCOS PALM REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT PROGRAM?

Gladstone Regional Council has been successful in securing funding through the State Government's Flying-fox Roost Management in Queensland Program to deliver a project removing Cocos Palms from both Council-controlled land and private property nearby to flying-fox roosts. This program will provide financial support to property owners to fund the removal of Cocos Palms and the purchasing of suitable native species to replace removed trees if desired. Council will also be working to remove Cocos Palms from key locations on Council-controlled land during 2024.

WHY SHOULD WE REMOVE COCOS PALMS?

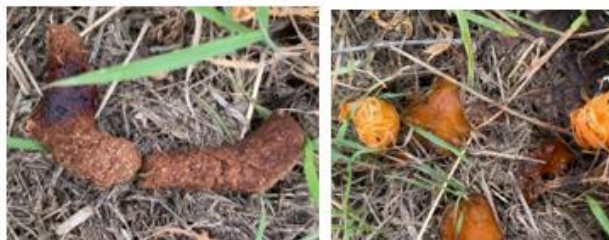
The Cocos Palm, also known as the Queen Palm (*Sygarus romanzoffiana*) is a fast-growing and resilient palm native to South America traditionally used as a landscape species. Cocos Palms are now an environmental weed due to ability to invade native ecosystems and their harmful effects on many species of wildlife.

Cocos Palms have a significant impact on flying-foxes as they forage on the fruit. Unripe green seeds are toxic to flying-foxes, while the strappy leaves and flower sheaths also pose an entanglement risk. Cocos Palms may also be poisonous to pets with digestive issues commonly reported in dogs that have ingested fallen fruits.



their

Grey-headed flying-fox entangled in Cocos Palm fronds at Miriam Vale



Droppings from flying-foxes that have fed on Cocos Palms vs healthy droppings

Flying-foxes that have fed on the fruit of Cocos Palms are known to produce particularly sticky faeces. This may worsen impacts to residents living close to foraging sites, as faeces become more difficult to remove and risk damage to paintwork on vehicles, driveways, roofs and outdoor items.

WHAT DO COCOS PALMS LOOK LIKE?

Cocos Palms are one of several common landscape palms and can be difficult to discern from other species, key features include:

- Single-stemmed palm up to an average height of 12m;
- Lack of green 'crown shaft' between the trunk and fronds;
- Fronds with leaflets radiating from the main stem, giving a three-dimensional, messy appearance;
- Dead fronds that stay attached to the main stem and hang from the crown;
- Produces bunches of round orange fruits 2.5cm in diameter.



Please do not hesitate to contact Council if you need assistance identifying Cocos Palms on your property.



WHO CAN APPLY?

Funding is available to support the removal of mature Cocos Palms (minimum height 5m) from private property occurring within 1km of a flying-fox roost within the Gladstone Region. Properties nearby to the following urban roost sites have been identified as a priority for this program:

- Miriam Vale;
- Joe Joseph Drive, West Gladstone;
- Sun Valley Road, Sun Valley;
- Leixlip Creek, Calliope; and
- Canoe Point, Tannum Sands.

Invitation to apply has been issued to eligible properties identified as containing Cocos Palms. Applicants will be approved on a first-served basis and will remain open until the allocated funds have been exhausted.

Funding is available as a once-off basis per property and is not available for other tree species on the property. If the applicant wishes to remove other trees or vegetation at the same time, the quote must be itemised and specify the cost for removal of Cocos Palms separately to other species.

WHAT DOES THE FUNDING COVER?

Applicants are eligible for reimbursement of the cost of removing Cocos palms and replacing with a native tree species (if desired), up to a maximum value of \$500 per tree and capped at \$5,000 per property. Additional costs over this amount will be the responsibility of the property owner. Tree removal may be performed by the applicant (or another private individual), or a contractor may be engaged to perform the work on their behalf. Contractor quotes must be provided along with the application.

TREE REPLACEMENT

Understanding that Cocos Palms are typically planted for their landscape value, property owners are provided the option with replacing removed trees with an alternative native species. Flying-foxes do forage on the flowers and fruit of native trees, so consider selecting small shrubs or planting trees away from dwellings and structures to avoid potential foraging impacts. Please see the following suggested species, however any Australian native tree or shrub may be selected.

Common name	Species name	Growth characteristics
Alexandra Palm	<i>Archontophoenix alexandrae</i>	Height: 15m - 25m Spread: fronds 2m - 3m
Bangalow Palm	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i>	Height: 20m - 25m Spread: fronds 2m - 3m
Carpentaria Palm	<i>Carpentaria acuminata</i>	Height: 9m-30m Spread: fronds 2m-4m
Foxtail Palm	<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	Height: to 10m Spread: fronds 2m - 3m
Tuckeroo	<i>Cupaniopsis anacardiodes</i>	Height: 5m – 8m Spread: 5m to 7m
Lilly Pilly	<i>Acmena sp., Syzygium sp.</i>	Height: Up to 8m Spread: 1-3m
Grevillea	<i>Grevillea sp.</i>	Height: 1m - 3m Spread: 1m to 2m
Bottlebrush	<i>Callistemon sp.</i>	Height: Up to 3m Spread: 1m to 2m

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants must apply directly to Council by completing and returning the Cocos Palm Removal & Replacement Program Application Form. Applications can be submitted via:

Gladstone Regional Council – Assets and Environment, Environment and Conservation – Cocos Palm Removal & replacement Grants Program Guidelines – FS - ENV04

PO Box 29, Gladstone Qld 4680 | T: (07) 4970 0700 | F: (07) 4975 8500 | E: info@gladstone.qld.gov.au | www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

- Email: Info@gladstone.qld.gov.au
- Post: Attn: Environment & Conservation
PO Box 29
Gladstone QLD 4680
- In person at a GRC Customer Service Centre

APPROVAL AND NOTIFICATION

Submissions will be reviewed by Council and successful applicants notified by email and post within **TWO** weeks. Applications will remain open until the allocated funds have been exhausted.

PAYMENT OF FUNDING AND ACQUITTAL PROCESS

The successful applicants must carry out Cocos Palm removal, purchase replacement trees and submit the completed acquittal form no later than **31 October 2024**, unless otherwise agreed. The acquittal form will detail how the funds have been expended together with valid banking details of the recipient. You must attach one or more the following with the acquittal form:

- Evidence that tree removal has been carried out (i.e. before and after photos)
- Invoice for tree removal contractor
- Receipt for replacement native tree or shrub.

Please note: Incomplete claims or claims made after the **31 October 2024** will not be paid.

ANY QUERIES?

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the program or your application, please get in touch with the Environment & Conservation team on 07 4970 0700 or email EnvSus@gladstone.qld.gov.au.

GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL “COCOS PALM REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT PROGRAM”

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Funding is conditional upon compliance with the following terms and conditions and any specific funding conditions outlined within the outcome letter.

1. Recipient will provide Council with an acquittal report by the due date provided. Council will process the payment within 30 days after receiving the completed acquittal.
2. Council may contact the recipient to verify their personal details and banking information before approving the payment. Approved funding amounts will be deposited directly into the nominated bank account, once verified by the Council.
3. Allow Gladstone Regional Council to use photographs that demonstrate the progress and achievements of the project through Council’s funding support.
4. It is the responsibility of the recipient to obtain any permits, licences, insurance, permissions etc. required for the project.
5. It is the responsibility of the recipient to monitor and manage any risks to health, safety, security, and the environment and meet any relevant legislative obligations.
6. Funding is to be used solely for the items specified within the application unless written permission for a variation is obtained from Gladstone Regional Council.
7. Gladstone Regional Council may cease payment of any funding or recover any funding already paid to you if the acquittal is deemed unsuccessful.
8. Immediately advise Council in writing if there are significant changes to the funded activities or your contact details.
9. Should the recipient exceed the proposed budget, Gladstone Regional Council is not responsible for meeting the shortfall.
10. Provide Council, upon request, information on the progress of the project, which could include a summary of progress made and any relevant photographs or other documentation that help demonstrate the status of the project.
11. Indemnify, and keep indemnified, Council and its officers, employees, and agents against any claims for a) loss or liability incurred by Council; b) loss of or damage to Council property; or c) loss or expense incurred by Council (including legal costs on a solicitor/own client basis) in dealing with any claim against Council; arising from:

- a. any act or omission by you or your employees, agents, volunteers, or subcontractors in connection with this agreement where there was fault on the part of the person whose conduct gave rise to that loss or damage or expense.
 - b. any breach by you of your obligations under this agreement.
 - c. the undertaking of the proposal to which this funding approval relates.
12. Your liability to indemnify Council under this clause will be reduced proportionally to the extent any fault on Council's part contributed to the relevant loss, damage, expense, or liability.
13. This Agreement does not constitute any partnership, agency employment or any authority or represent Council in any way or for any purpose.
14. Council is immediately made aware of any issues arising that may:
- Damage Council's reputation, credibility, and integrity in any way
 - Conflict with Council's vision, values, priorities, and/or aspirations
 - Hamper Council's ability to carry out its functions fully and impartially
 - Breach local laws or policies or cause any harm to any person involved
 - Directly or indirectly personally benefit Councillors, staff members or volunteers
 - Potentially cause conflicts of interest