

NO MORE RELIEF FOR RESIDENTS AS CONTROVERSIAL NOISY BAT DISPERSAL PROGRAM FAILS

FLYING PESTS RETURN HOME

THE bats are back at Avalon's Cannes Reserve – and this time some are pregnant. The three-week dispersal program of loud industrial sounds, light and smoke appears to have failed. Full report page 9



the bats are spotted this week

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AVALON

Bats back, program fail

Bryn Kay

BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD FOR DISPERSAL INITIATIVE

THE bats are back at Avalon's Cannes Reserve – and this time some of them are pregnant.

A controversial program to disperse the grey-headed flying fox colony at the reserve looks to be a failure

after about 200 of the animals were spotted in the reserve this week.

Pittwater Council carried out a three-week dispersal program – which included loud industrial sounds, light

and smoke – in the reserve from mid-July to the start of August.

The initiative was implemented following years of frustration by nearby residents who have complained

about the loud early-morning noise.

But Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services' flying fox co-ordinator for the northern beaches, Sarah Thorpe, said the sudden return of the

animals is proof, in her opinion, the initiative hasn't worked.

"There are definitely hundreds of bats that have returned and they are giving birth now," she said.

Council general manager Mark Ferguson said the cost of the program was, so far, about \$45,000.

Along with considering more dispersal works, Mr Ferguson said the council will liaise with the Office of Environment and Heritage to explore further options.