

Agriculture and Environment Committee

From: Ruth Hamdorf [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2015 11:45 AM
To: Agriculture and Environment Committee
Subject: Submission for Nature Conservation Act 1992

Categories: EA to Process

To the Chair,
Agriculture and Environment Committee,
Parliament House,
Brisbane QLD 4000

Honorable Chair,

As a concerned and interested Queensland voting resident who volunteers my time, energy and own resources to care for injured wildlife, I call upon this government to restore the legislation to its previous wording and make the following changes to the current Act.

Return the protection level to the status quo that is as it was prior to the LNP government by removing the flying-fox exemptions in restrictions on granting damage mitigation permits in the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006. In particular, remove the indented phrase in section 185.

185 Restriction on grant of permit for damage or loss

(1) The chief executive may grant a damage mitigation permit, **other than a permit for taking a flying-fox**, for damage or loss caused, or likely to be caused, by a protected animal only if the chief executive is satisfied— .

Information to support the amendment

Permit only non-lethal methods of crop protection

- In 2008, the Labor Government banned the shooting of flying-foxes after Queensland's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee advised that it was inhumane. Shooting causes suffering due to a high wounding rate and the death by starvation of orphaned young.
- At the time, the *Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006* required that methods of 'take' under damage mitigation permits be 'humane and not likely to cause unnecessary suffering'.
- In 2012, the LNP government reintroduced damage mitigation permits for shooting flying-foxes by exempting flying-foxes from the requirement that methods of take be humane.
- Flying-fox numbers have declined to the extent that two species are nationally threatened. Sanctioned as well as illegal killing in orchards adds to the multiple pressures on their populations.
- The majority of farmers with orchards vulnerable to flying-fox damage have netted their crops. Nets (with small apertures to prevent entanglement) are an affordable, effective and non-lethal way to protect fruit crops from flying-foxes and birds.

Recommendations:

1. Ban the shooting of flying-foxes for crop protection. This can be done by requiring that methods of take under damage mitigation permits be humane for flying-foxes, as is required for other protected wildlife.
2. Provide adequate resources and legislative capacity for the environment department to monitor for and prosecute illegal killing of flying-foxes.
3. Permit only non-lethal methods of crop protection.

Thank you for considering these amendments that I believe are really important to welfare of our environment.

Kind Regards
Ruth

Ruth Hamdorf

