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20 September 2012

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee  
Parliament House  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Email: [arec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:arec@parliament.qld.gov.au)**

Dear Sir / Madam

**Submission - Land Protection (Flying-Fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012**

Central Highlands Regional Council would like to plead a special case for the residents of the Township of Duaringa (located approximately 1 hour due west of Rockhampton) population of approximately 200. The special case relates to permission to allow Council to respond to the problem of Flying Fox issues occurring now and if the colony was to re-visit the township in the future.

Since April this year (2012), Duaringa has endured a colony of Little Red Flying Foxes numbering up to 180,000 and at the moment the numbers are approximately 30,000 to 40,000. This remnant colony has preferred to roost at a constant location on trees spread across the backyards of 4 residential homes in the township (ref Appendix 1 map and photos of damage caused).

To date, Council has met its obligations under the authority of DERM (now EHP) to submit a formal request to re-locate the Flying Foxes. The request has been granted with conditions. The conditions have been that the colony is not at its breeding stage OR have pregnant females OR have dependent young. At the time of writing this submission the latest information from EHP on 14<sup>th</sup> September that there are still 10 to 15 dependent young and the conditions for re-location approval have yet to be met.

It has been a constant effort for Council to meet the needs of the EHP Department and the needs of residents of Duaringa to live in their chosen town without having their amenity or their health potentially negatively impacted. What Council has been trying to prevent is for residents of Duaringa to take matters into their own hands and move the colony on their own against current Regulations. With current Flying Fox mitigation permit having the strict conditions mentioned above. If the Flying Fox colony was to re-visit the town in the near future, Council would still be obliged to abide by the special conditions for removal /relocation of the colony. To prevent the likelihood of the colony returning into the township Council's only option is to severely cut down MOST trees in the township. There is no alternative for Council under present regulations to prevent this prolonged roosting in the township of Flying Fox colonies and causing the severe loss of amenity and hardship to residents.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - ATTN: [CONTACT NAME]  
PO BOX 21 / 65 Egerton Street Emerald Qld 4720 General Enquiries: 1300 242 686 Fax: 1300 242 687 Email: [enquiries@chrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@chrc.qld.gov.au)

The SPECIAL CASE that Council wishes to make for the town, is based on its proximity to two EHP identified re-location sites less than 3.0km EAST & 2.0km WEST of the town (see Appendix 1 map). Council will be willing to take advice on further enhancing these habitats. Research of current knowledge advises that this would improve the habitat for the Flying Foxes and increases the chances for the Colony choosing that area as opposed to roosting in the township.

The SPECIAL CASE for DUARINGA Township is to allow Council to rapidly and responsibly respond and re-locate the Flying foxes to the nearby area(s) mentioned WITHOUT meeting the special conditions that would normally prevent such relocation i.e. there should be no pregnant females, dependent young or breeding activity.

Not granting Council this special case submission may leave it open for the residents to take matters into their own hands as occurred in the Barcaldine Regional Council area. Duaringa residents may be prompted to similar behaviour having witnessed the severe damage and disruption imposed on the lives and property of some residents this year. Council would have no option but to severely cut back most trees in the township including trees in resident's back yards. Severely cutting existing mature trees in the town would be an extreme measure that residents are likely to strongly oppose.

While EHP may not be happy with the idea, Council sees this as it's only reasonable option.

In Summary; If the Flying Foxes come back next year:

Request to grant Council;

- One week to move the colony on towards EHP identified sites without having to meet strict conditions currently imposed for removal i.e. no breeding, no pregnant females, no dependent young.
- Permission to relocate the colony on within 24 to 48 hours under EHP supervision during removal process.

Just re-iterating; Council makes a special request based on the proximity of the Duaringa Township's to alternative roosting sites as well as being prompted to due to lack of pro-active alternatives but to severely cut down most trees in the town.

Yours faithfully

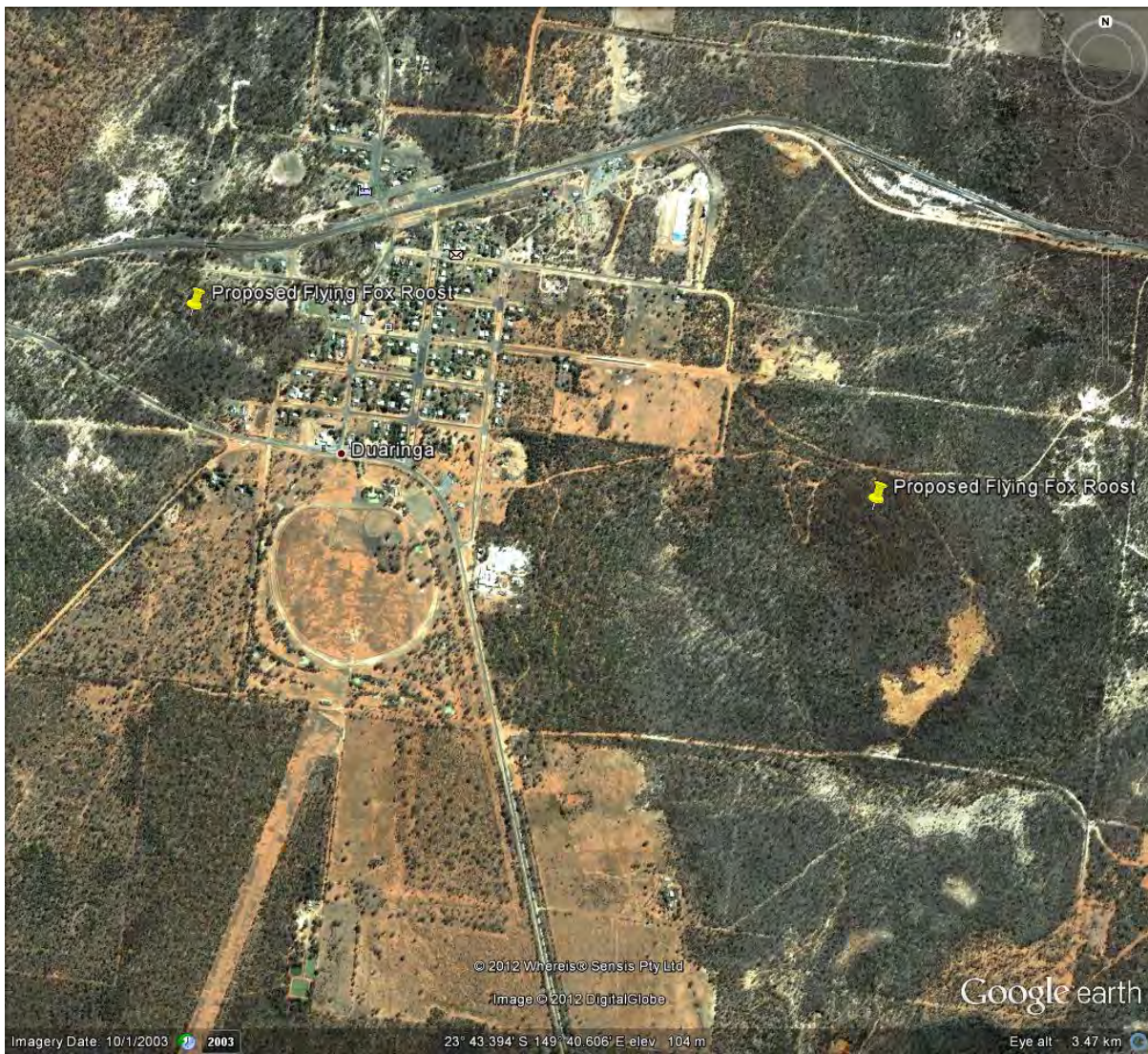


**Bryan Ottone**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

CC:

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Appendix 1; Location map and photos of damage to trees on Duaringa residents property.



Proposed sites for roost relocation. Note; final sites will be agreed upon by consultation.







