


25 September 2012.

Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4001
arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee,

Re: Land Protection Legislation (Flying Fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012

I wish to the object to this Bill. It should be rejected in full.

Firstly, I object as an animal lover, former wildlife carer of orphaned and injured flying foxes and as a conservationist. Secondly, I object to this Bill on the basis that it is unjustified, unethical and legally flawed. It is bad law and very poorly conceived.

I support the many wildlife, animal welfare and conservation organisations that have already provided extensive submissions on this Bill.

It breaches the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (Qld) and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Many species of flying foxes are already threatened and this Bill will allow for their wholesale destruction. It is also promotes and encourages widespread animal cruelty.

It is ill conceived scientifically as there is no evidence that flying foxes are any great danger to humans at all. Many other animal species including dogs, bees, snakes, spiders, and horses injure or kill people in far greater numbers. If the Queensland Government is really concerned about human life they would be far more effective in trying harder to prevent cancer, dog attacks, car accidents or domestic violence. In fact, there is good evidence to show that stressing flying foxes by hunting them and driving them from their roost sites is more likely to increase their vulnerability to disease and increase the health risk to humans.

Flying foxes are well known pollinators of many plant species. In a world where pollination of plants is becoming more difficult with the decline in other animal species that pollinate plants, including bees, the Queensland Government has a responsibility to promote the welfare of animal species that actually assist the fertilisation of plants.

The nightly fly out of thousands of flying foxes is a spectacular sight. Instead of trying to drive flying foxes to extinction, a sensible government would see the potential tourist attraction that this nightly event could provide. International tourists come to Australia to see the amazing wildlife. Steve Irwin brought international fame to crocodiles, an animal that would seem an unlikely tourist attraction. A wise government would see the potential in Queensland's other amazing native species and help care for and preserve them. This Bill will bring international condemnation from conservationists and animal lovers across the world. Please stop it now.

Yours faithfully,

Zoe Morgan