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**Submission to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
on the Land Protection Legislation (Flying Fox Control) Amendment Bill 2012**



My reasons for making this submission

I am a resident of Oleander Drive, Yungaburra, living in close proximity to a suburban park which has, since Cyclone Larry, become a roost for a large colony of flying foxes (in excess of 35000).

Residents of our street include families with very young children and many retirees, and the noise and smell from the bats, together with associated respiratory problems, lack of sleep and health risks to residents has made life almost unbearable, particularly for those living immediately adjacent to the park. It is not economically possible for most of us to relocate as properties in the street are virtually unsaleable since the bats moved in.

Approaches to authorities have proved fruitless, and even though the Local Authority was willing to help, State Government red tape thwarted this. Instead we were told to enclose all open areas of our houses, double glaze and air-condition to keep out noise and smell, pressure-hose roofs and pathways daily, and keep children and pets inside – in other words destroy our quality of life.

Support for, and suggestions re the Bill

In view of the above I appreciate your Government's initiative in introducing a Bill such as this, but may I suggest that provision should also be made to protect residents where the Flying Fox colonies are not actually on our properties but immediately adjacent to them on Crown or Council land.

My suggestion would be that the protections afforded under 96C be extended to landowners adjacent to bat colonies on Crown or Council land insofar as they can use approved methods (with written approval from the designated landowner – Crown or Council) to move the bats on or deter them from returning.

I am aware of a number of situations similar to ours (Charters Towers is one) where the bats are on public land but seriously impacting adjacent homeowners. I realise the owner of the public land has rights to move the bats under the proposed legislation, but there needs to be implicit protection for individuals if, say, Council does not have funding or staffing to use noise or smoke at the crucial times, but is happy to delegate that task to residents.

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Bruce Peden
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