

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitter Comments:

More protections need to be placed and current legislation investigated in relation to flying foxes, particularly the scientifically critically endangered Spectacled flying fox in northern QLD. There is currently very little protection and what there is is not concrete in its wording. I work with these animals in the Cairns region and monitor them closely every day and the effect of ongoing dispersal from their nationally important camp has been going on for almost two yrs. this has forced them into more public conflict which caused an increase in deaths and abandonment of a high number of pups this last birthing season. The current legislation only advises not to disperse during birthing and rearing season and this has to stop. These animals are suffering and the impact on their preservation and any possible recovery of this species is being impacted by this barbaric practice. They are a keystone species without whom our ecosystem will breakdown. Their value and them as an intelligent, sentient species needs to be protected as with current legislation they are not protected at all and I fear greatly for their demise. Also more accurate information on the value of this species needs to be portrayed to the public as in they are not a danger to anyone any more than any wild animal. They are intact a great attraction to locals and tourists alike who I film daily in awe of these animals which the government doesn't seem to value