



Speech by

**Ronan Lee**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—ALP) (5.09 pm): I am thrilled to rise to speak in support of the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2007. It is a wonderful piece of legislation. It inserts a new provision to better protect flying fox roosts from disturbance. Flying foxes are social animals that usually live in large colonies or camps. Their roosts, which are the places where flying foxes sleep, can be as small as a dozen animals but usually number in the tens or hundreds of thousands. With fewer available habitat areas there are fewer flying foxes than there used to be and, in fact, all flying fox populations are declining at an alarming rate. People disturbing maternal roost sites can reduce the number of available roosts. If these events were to coincide with the flying fox breeding season for a number of years local extinctions could occur and ultimately lead to the extinction of some species.

The flying foxes amendment to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 is designed to assist local councils to move on roosts of colonies of flying foxes in a safe and humane fashion. Activities aimed at moving flying foxes from their roost sites should only occur under permit as moving flying fox colonies from their roost during breeding or while they have young can adversely affect the colony. The permits to move flying foxes will only be granted in limited circumstances such as where local governments need to move particular problematic flying fox colonies. The permit would only be granted as a last resort measure where there is a humane and effective method of moving flying foxes to less problematic roost sites.

I also put on record my concern, considering we are discussing an environmental piece of legislation, that the local federal member of parliament who represents a large part of my electorate, Mr Michael Johnson, the federal member for Ryan, has not publicly declared his support for Australia's ratification of the Kyoto protocol. From this we can only assume that Mr Johnson remains a climate change sceptic. I am throwing a challenge to Mr Johnson to publicly declare that he believes that climate change is real, is happening and is affecting Australia and the world. He should declare that Australia should immediately ratify the Kyoto protocol. I am thrilled to support this piece of legislation.