

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 331

asked on Thursday, 2 May 2013

MR KRAUSE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)——

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what policy initiatives are being implemented by the government to support communities affected by flying-fox roosts?

ANSWER:

On 1 May, the Queensland Government announced a new approach to flying-fox roosts which recognises the important role local governments play in on-ground roost management.

The new approach will empower local governments to make their own decisions on whether to disperse, remove or otherwise manage flying-fox roosts in urban areas, without having to apply to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for a damage mitigation permit (DMP).

The proposal includes a new code of practice which would set clear rules regarding acceptable practice in roost management by local governments.

This new approach puts the health and wellbeing of the community as the central consideration and makes it easier for local councils to manage flying-fox roosts in urban areas.

Management of flying-fox roosts by councils outside of the designated urban areas will continue to require a DMP as is currently the case.

Where councils choose not to act, individuals, community organisations or businesses can still apply for a DMP through the department, as they can now.

The DMP process is currently being revised and will be managed under a streamlined, 'customer first' ethos.

While the health and wellbeing of people will be the central concern, the sustainability of Queensland's flying-fox species will not be put at risk. Flying-foxes will not be culled; only non-lethal methods will be permitted to be used, when managing flying-fox roosts.