

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 351

asked on Thursday, 2 May 2013

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how many damage mitigation permits have been issued since introduction in 2012 to 30 April 2013 in relation to deterring flying foxes from commercial orchards, nursery's and vineyards in Queensland?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government has implemented its election commitment to once again allow growers lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection. It is important to note that lethal take is limited; and can only be authorised under a Damage Mitigation Permit (DMP) issued by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. The permit will specify maximum numbers of animals which may be taken and the conditions under which this must occur.

Any lethal take of flying-foxes will need to be undertaken in line with a Code of Practice. The code is aimed at ensuring ecological sustainability and that the pain and suffering of flying-foxes is minimised.

As at 10 May 2013, the department had received 19 lethal DMP applications for flying-foxes.

Of these 19 applications, 10 have been granted, four have been refused, and five have been withdrawn. A summary of DMP applications for the lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection for the 2012-13 growing season is publicly available on the EHP website.

Currently 82% of the allocated quota for the lethal take of flying-foxes remains unallocated. The quota remaining to be allocated (as at 10 May 2013) is as follows:

- Black flying-foxes: 2,700 remaining out of 3,500 total (23 per cent allocated);
- Little Red flying-foxes: 3,310 out of 4,000 total (17 per cent allocated);
- Grey-headed flying-foxes: 870 of 1,280 total (32 per cent allocated); and
- Spectacled flying-foxes: 1,755 of 1,800 total (3 per cent allocated).