

## QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 374

**asked on Tuesday, 21 May 2013**

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise what the Newman Government is doing to help alleviate the flying fox problem in residential areas?

ANSWER:

On 29 May 2013 a discussion paper was released on the Queensland Government's proposed 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.

This new approach makes the health and wellbeing of the community the central consideration and provides a less cumbersome process for local councils to plan and take action 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 permit as is currently the case. This acknowledges the fact that it is in urban areas that conflict between people and roosts is most likely to occur.

Where councils choose not to act, individuals, community organisations or businesses are still be able apply for a damage mitigation permit through the department as they can now.

The proposal includes the provision of a new code of practice which would set clear rules regarding acceptable practice in roost management by local governments. This code of practice is in place to ensure that, while the health and wellbeing of people will be the central concern, reasonable animal welfare standards are upheld as part of the management process.

It should be made clear that nothing in the proposed framework allows for flying-foxes to be culled; only non-lethal methods will be permitted to be used when managing flying-fox roosts.

During the current consultation period, the department is liaising with local governments and other interested groups to ensure this new approach is workable, equitable and sustainable.

The department is currently actively working with a number of councils and communities on the management of particular problem roosts. There have been a number of recent positive outcomes, for example, flying-foxes have been successfully dispersed from Warwick on the Southern Downs and Pittsworth on the Darling Downs.