

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 563

asked on Tuesday, 20 August 2013

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

QUESTION:

With reference to flying-fox colonies in Burpengary—

Will the Minister advise how the department is working with the Moreton Bay Regional Council to deal with the impact that these colonies are having on local residents?

ANSWER:

The Newman Government places the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders before wildlife. The Government recognises community concerns about flying-foxes roosting in residential areas and is taking the necessary action to minimise the impacts that can result.

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been working collaboratively with the Moreton Bay Regional Council on the management of flying-foxes within Moreton Bay's jurisdiction.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has developed a flying-fox species management plan in which they highlight and rate the roosts in conflict with residents in order of priority of action. The Burpengary roost is rated as being in high conflict.

In May 2013, the council alerted the department that previous nudging techniques to discourage the flying-foxes from the Rowley Road residence and the equestrian club area had been unsuccessful and that direct dispersal techniques would need to be implemented. Dispersal activities were not a component of council's existing three year permit. A permit to conduct direct dispersal was issued on 3 May 2013. Dispersal activities occurred for three weeks commencing 20 June 2013, with disappointing results.

The roost vegetation has been modified and a visual deterrent was used to reduce the likelihood of flying-foxes returning to this site. The department and council will continue to liaise to determine appropriate methods to mitigate the impacts of flying-foxes on Burpengary residents.