

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 98

asked on Tuesday, 4 March 2014

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

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the State Government is responding to requests from local councils to provide lethal damage mitigation permits to control flying-fox populations in urban areas?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Government made a commitment to local government in November 2013 that it would legislate to allow lethal control of flying-foxes in urban areas as a last resort. This is in line with the government's broader commitment to place the health and wellbeing of the community first when addressing flying-fox issues.

These legislative changes will be made this year.

The position of the government is that lethal control should be available as a tool for managing flying-foxes, but only where all non-lethal measures have been exhausted.

It should be remembered that, as of November 2013, councils have an as-of-right authority to manage flying-fox roosts in designated urban areas where a permit is not required. Outside these areas, where a permit is still required, assessment processes have been streamlined very significantly. This means that councils now have greater and faster access to non-lethal means of roost management, with the aim of reducing the need for more intensive interventions.

Discussions are now underway with the Commonwealth Government regarding how the lethal control provision can meet the referral and approval requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The government is taking this course of action to provide local councils with every practical option to manage flying-fox roosts. However, this will not mean that the widespread culling of flying-foxes will be authorised.