

Question on Notice

No. 139

Asked on Thursday, 6 February 2020

MR R KATTER ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to reports that substantial private resources have been used to relocate hundreds of flying foxes by plane to Queensland at the same time regional towns are battling exploding populations—

Will the Minister advise whether they support this import of bats from interstate and will the Minister ensure no Queensland government money is spent on this exercise?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science (the department) is aware of the transportation of flying-foxes into Queensland for rehabilitation from New South Wales (NSW). The significant environmental challenges in that State, including recent bushfires, meant that wildlife carers in NSW were becoming overwhelmed with the volume of rescued animals requiring care.

Where the successful rescue and rehabilitation of native animals requires them to be moved from one State to another State, that movement generally requires approval or endorsement from the respective State conservation agencies.

The Queensland Government has not provided any funding or in-kind support for the transportation of these animals.

Importantly, the low number of rescued animals currently entering Queensland for care would have no meaningful impact on local flying-fox populations, given that these animals are highly nomadic and wild flying-foxes may be entering or leaving the State on any given night.