

Question on Notice

No. 46

Asked on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

MR 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 the increasingly unmanageable flying fox populations, numbered in the hundreds of thousands, that are descending upon and establishing roosts in urban areas across Queensland—

Will the Minister advise what ongoing scientific testing is conducted on these populations to accurately ascertain the rate of infection amongst them of deadly diseases, such as Australian bat lyssavirus, Hendra virus and also the coronavirus?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The issue of ongoing scientific testing to determine rates of infection of certain viruses in flying-fox populations is a biosecurity issue, administered by Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. As this matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I refer the Member to the relevant Minister.