

Question on Notice

No. 38

Asked on Tuesday, 10 February 2026

MR M BERKMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries (HON A PERRETT)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the control of flying foxes for crop protection—

Will the Minister advise (a) how many Queensland growers the department has assessed are unable to transition to full exclusion netting and (b) in relation to (a), (i) in which Local Government Areas are these growers located, (ii) what specific constraints prevent each of these growers from transitioning to full exclusion netting and (iii) what solutions has the department considered to address these constraints?

ANSWER:

The Department of Primary Industries has not conducted a formal assessment of growers affected by flying foxes who are unable to transition to full exclusion netting. As no formal assessment has been conducted, there are no details to respond to (b) in identifying specific growers.

Flying foxes damage crops in a number of ways, including: direct fruit consumption and physical damage including knocking unripe fruit to the ground; contamination and spoilage with their excreta which stain or blemish fruit and cause consumer health and quality concerns; and plant stress from continuous activity in the tree canopies and the breaking of new shoots which reduces the next season's yield.