



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 23215/17

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21 SEP 2017

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 25 August 2017 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2811-17 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125, the response is tabled by Friday, 22 September 2017.

Flying-foxes are an important native species because of their role in long range plant pollination and seed dispersal. However, the Government is also aware of the impacts flying-foxes have on the community and concerns regarding disease and property damage.

For these reasons, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* provides for local government to manage roosts in urban areas without the need for a permit. In addition, any entity can apply to manage or disperse a flying-fox roost that is impacting on someone's business, property, health or wellbeing. In all cases, individuals or councils involved in disturbing roosts are required to use humane methods which are ecologically sustainable.

The petitioners have questioned the efficacy of the current approach and indicated their aspiration to see flying-fox dispersals occurring during breeding season, despite potential impacts. The Government is committed to managing Queensland's wildlife in a way that is humane and ecologically sustainable.

Further, dispersal is an unreliable and unpredictable tool for managing roosts. It is hard to predict if the roost will respond to a dispersal by moving. In many cases roost dispersals have caused increased problems at new sites. Alternatives to managing roosts include modifying vegetation within the roost or creating buffers between the roost and neighbours.

I would urge the petitioners to consider the full range of management options available and work with their local government to manage the impact of living near a roost.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Tom Mumbray, Senior Program Officer of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection on telephone (07) 3330 5256.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef