

Flying-foxes URGENTLY need your HELP

The new LNP Government are revising the current Animal Care and Protection Act and they are planning to reintroduce lethal methods of crop protection. Shooting and electrocuting flying-foxes was proven to be cruel and inhumane in 2008 by an independent body called the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Lethal methods of crop protection and colony dispersal were subsequently banned.

2 of the 4 species of flying-foxes found in Queensland are already Federally listed as Vulnerable to Extinction. Grey-headed flying-fox populations have plummeted by 1/3 in the past 10 years and populations of Spectacled flying-foxes are in serious decline.

Electrocution was banned in 2001 after it was proven that 18,000 Spectacled Flying-foxes were killed on an electric grid on ONE lychee farm in a single 6 week period in FN Queensland. One fifth of the world population of Spectacled Flying-foxes lost forever. No Bats, no World Heritage Rainforest, no tourist dollars, no multimillion dollar hardwood timber industry and no export dollars for Australia.

Shooting was banned in 2008 after the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee proved that shooting a small, dark, moving target at night is cruel and inhumane and shooting was banned on animal welfare grounds.

As fruit ripening season coincides with flying-fox birthing season, killing bats in orchards results in large numbers of baby flying-foxes being orphaned and wounded. These defenceless babies are left to a slow and protracted death from dehydration, starvation and maggot and crow predation.

The Government plan to kill bats under a quota system but they have no accurate population figures on which to base this quota. We do know that many thousands of flying-foxes will be shot/electrocuted and they will suffer prolonged, agonising deaths as it is impossible to enforce both humane outcomes and quota limits on remote properties.

Our vital forest pollinators and seed dispersers together with their defenceless babies, urgently need your help to explain to the LNP that Government sanctioned cruelty to any species, including defenceless babies is never acceptable, humane or progressive.



ACTION REQUIRED!

Please email the LNP leader Campbell Newman (leader@lnpqlld.org.au) together with the Minister for the Environment, Andrew Powell (andrew.powell@lnpqlld.org.au) and explain to them that Queenslanders will not sit idly by and watch the disgraceful slaughter of a native species. Tell them that -

- There is no excuse for animal cruelty regardless of the species. Queenslanders will not tolerate nor condone cruelty to animals on any level.
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- You vehemently object to cruel methods of crop protection and colony dispersals such as the shooting/electrocuting of flying-foxes. Over 90% of bats die agonisingly slow deaths as a result of wounds and orphaned, defenceless babies die of starvation, dehydration, maggot and crow attacks.
- There is no accurate way of identifying species in the dark and shotguns do not discriminate. Therefore, Federally listed animals will be shot and this will hasten species demise.
- Preservation of flying-foxes is a priority and the focus should be on education, habitat preservation and conservation of our native species to ensure a future for all Queenslanders and a healthy and diverse eco system for generations to come.
- Farmers have far more effective, nonlethal choices and full exclusion netting is the only humane, progressive and acceptable method of crop protection in the 21st century. Exclusion netting produces 100% of a crop, achieves high export dollars and ensures no predation from rats, possums, insects, birds or bats.
- Shooting bats doesn't work in the long term and it has no appreciable effect on crop protection when native food is scarce, bats are hungry and crop predation is heavy but it does impact significantly on species populations.

**TELL MR. NEWMAN AND MR. POWELL THAT
THEY HAVE GOT IT ALL WRONG.**

THANK-YOU FROM OUR SENTIENT FOREST POLLINATORS.



Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld Inc. Helpline 0488228134, www.bats.org.au, info@bats.org.au