



the Jane Goodall Institute

January 2014

To Whom it May Concern,

It deeply saddens me to hear that “Threatened Species Day” 2012 was marked by the decision by the Queensland Government to sanction the killing of flying foxes – including two threatened species – Spectacled and Grey-headed flying foxes.

Flying Foxes are a keystone species...vital to our environment. The survival of the Australian native trees and the animals that inhabit them depends on humans being able to co-exist with Flying Foxes.

Flying Foxes are suffering ongoing loss of habitat from urban and agricultural expansion, camp destruction and dispersals. Due to the recent heat wave in South Queensland, tens of thousands of Flying Foxes perished. The Queensland Government is continuing with their plan for lethal dispersal ignoring scientific concerns that there is no consideration for this recent decline of their numbers.

Education by the State Government is extremely important. The species is maligned by cultural myths that generate an unfounded fear, which should be countered with factual information of what risks exist and their simple prevention.

The Queensland State and Federal Government handing over power to the Councils to act is not in the interest of conservation consideration of the species as it fails to assess state or national impacts of all the council’s independent local actions.

We need to move to a much greater appreciation of these animals and the vital ecological role they play. They are highly intelligent, social animals. A truly fascinating species as is proven by their popularity with tourists.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE
Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute
& UN Messenger of Peace