



17 November 2016

The Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA
Canberra ACT 2600

To whom it may concern

Response to the Inquiry into Flying Fox Management in the Eastern States

Growcom, as the peak industry body representing Queensland horticulture has a long history of dealing with the negative impacts of flying foxes on our industry. We respectfully request that any consideration of the issues around flying foxes recognise the significant economic losses that can be borne by our growers. In 2008, the Queensland government estimated the economic losses caused by flying foxes in the Granite Belt alone to be \$4.8 million at farm gate with a total economic loss to the region of \$11.9 million. Growers do not want to shoot flying foxes and are very keen to support non-lethal control measures however it is our observation that apart from expensive netting, these have limited value.

Growcom is a strong supporter of the current regulatory approach in Queensland whereby Damage Mitigation Permits are issued provided growers comply with a Code of Practice <https://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/pdf/cp-wl-ff-roost-management.pdf>. We contend that this approach provides the right balance between protecting native wildlife and managing their impacts on horticulture production. It should be noted that for many years the number of DMPs issued has been significantly below the quota allocated and this is certainly not a free-for-all to shoot flying foxes.

Growcom would strongly support further investment in non-lethal control methods and would also ask that if DMPs were considered no longer an option that subsidies be provided to growers for expensive netting options including retractable nets that can be taken down in cyclone situations.

Please contact me
questions.

if you have any

Kind Regards