

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of citizens of Australia draws to the attention of the House:

- The desperate and uncertain situation facing Southern Darling Downs fruit growers who have been banned from using humane lethal deterrents to protect their orchards from the threat of flying foxes this coming harvest season;
- The absence of an alternative, reliable, proven and affordable non-lethal method to deter flying foxes from roosting in orchards and damaging fruit crops;
- The adverse impact the Queensland Government's revocation of Damage Mitigation Permits will have on the viability of orchards across the Southern Darling Downs and Granite Belt;
- The potential health risk for orchardists who will be in close contact with flying foxes, which are natural reservoirs for deadly diseases, such as the Hendra Virus.

We therefore ask the House to:

- recognise the importance of protecting these orchards, which provide Australia with clean, green fruit;
- recognise the possibility of the mutation of viruses carried by flying foxes and the potential health risk for humans should these diseases be capable of direct bat-to-human transmission;
- recognise shooting of the Flying Fox 'scout' is an effective, safe and humane method to deter flying foxes from roosting in orchards;
- intervene to pressure the Queensland Government to *immediately* reinstate Damage Mitigation Permits until a reliable, proven and affordable non-lethal alternative can be implemented to protect fruit orchards from flying foxes.