

Dear Senate Committee

I am a concerned resident who has personal objections to how the Cairns City Council is treating local fauna specifically the city's flying foxes. These animals are facing eviction from roost trees in the Cairns CBD. These animals are important to the biodiversity and are threatened species.

I was born and lived in Cairns all my life and love these animals as an important part of the tropical area where I live. These animals have roosted in the same trees before I was born and will continue to do so in the future however just recently the Cairns City Council is proposing to remove several flying fox roost trees and cutting trees down for the purpose of evicting the bats from their historical homes.

I particularly object to the Abbott Government plans to hand all federal environmental responsibilities over to state governments which would leave Campbell Newman solely in charge of protecting flying foxes where it is well-known that this state government has very low regard for environmental issues and allows the mass slaughter of local fauna, for example the recent agile wallaby population cull at Mission Beach, Qld. The Newman Government actively promotes inhumane wanton shooting of native animals.

Humans must find ways to live alongside other species and the tropical north must remain the last refuge for biodiversity.