

16 November 2016

Please find below, comments for submission to the Parliamentary inquiry “The management of nationally protected flying-foxes in the eastern states of Australia”

Strategic approaches to managing species at a regional scale

The grey headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) moves between the eastern states, and as such, requires consideration on a larger scale to ensure consistent outcomes and ensure the continued protection of this threatened species.

Recommendation: Ensure that a national approach is taken to managing flying foxes

Opportunities to streamline the regulation of flying fox management

The different states currently have varying approaches, often with considerable flexibility given to local councils. However, these do not appear to be monitored or controlled sufficiently to ensure that the threatened flying foxes are given the long term protection and proactive support they need, as per the obligation under the various state acts and the national Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Recommendation: Ensure that regulation of flying foxes actively supports their long term protection and is applied consistently at a national level, recognizing the different characteristics of the various flying fox species.

The success or otherwise of management actions, such as dispersal of problematic flying-fox camps

It is considered that current and future issues are likely to be the result of habitat destruction and poor planning with development too close to flying fox camps. Dispersing flying fox camps merely attempts to move the problem from one area to another (sometimes causing more problems) but does not resolve the issue.

Recommendation: Short and long term planning is taken to prevent conflict to provide adequate buffers around camp sites, recognizing that camp sites can vary depending on the season, availability of food and over time.