



Referrals Gateway
Assessment & Governance Branch
Department of the Environment and Energy
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Canberra ACT 2601
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Re: Referral 2019/8424 Submission #3780 - Flying Fox deterrent Cairns Regional Council

Please find below my comments on this proposed action detailing why I believe this proposed action should not be approved.

About North Queensland Conservation Council

North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC) is a peak organisation for the region and is part of a network of state-wide conservation councils. Established in 1974, NQCC is a not-for-profit incorporated association with a broad mandate to protect the “land, waters and atmosphere of the region” and since then has worked continuously on a number of environmental issues of significance to North Queensland and beyond. NQCC covers an area along the coast from Bowen in the South, North to Cardwell and inland to Mt Isa, through to the border of Northern Territory. We are the voice for the environment and represent over 1500 members and supporters.

Within our region, the Spectacled Flying Foxes have experienced significant pressures from land use changes and heatwaves that are taking its toll on this species. It is important that the Federal Government does not approve the Cairns Regional Council's dispersal plan of this species.

Instead, all local councils and their communities need to work together to find solutions that fosters better understanding of this endangered species and how the best outcome can be reached for local communities.

These species are highly mobile and there is no evidence to suggest that dispersal is actually effective. What is needed is better promotion of the ecological value of flying foxes for the health of the Australian landscape. They help land to regenerate as they play a major seed-dispersal function. This dispersal plan will exacerbate misinformation about the Spectacled Flying Fox and could easily set a precedent for the essential roosting sites within our region in Townsville and Ingham, to name just two.

Tarquin Moon
Campaigns Manager
North Queensland Conservation Council