

# CALL FOR ALL QUEENSLAND POLITICAL PARTIES TO PROTECT FLYING-FOXES



*Orphaned, horribly burned but still alive - this baby shows the reality of electrocution.*



*Spectacled flying foxes, a nationally threatened species, dead on a farmer's electrocution grid.*



*Grey-headed flying fox, a nationally listed threatened species left to die from multiple compound fractures from gunshot wounds.*

The groups listed overleaf call on all Queensland political parties to commit to protecting native flying-foxes from threats to their conservation and welfare. There is no excuse for committing, allowing or encouraging cruelty to animals or for killing threatened species. We call on each political party to commit to the following:

## 1. Permit only humane non-lethal methods of crop protection, as required under Queensland's Nature Conservation Act 1992.

- Expert assessments, including those by the RSPCA and Queensland's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, have found that electrocution and shooting are inhumane.
- The Queensland Government banned electrocution of flying-foxes in 2001 and shooting of flying-foxes in 2008 in recognition that these methods are inhumane.
- Shooting causes a high rate of wounding, and slow death from injuries, thirst or starvation. Electrocution can cause a slow, agonising death.
- The birth of flying-foxes coincides with the ripening of many orchard fruits. A substantial proportion of flying-foxes killed in orchards have dependent young, who subsequently die from hunger or thirst over several days. The 'orphaned young' issue guarantees that all lethal methods of crop protection are inhumane.
- Full exclusion netting is humane and effective in protecting fruit crops from flying-foxes and birds.

## 2. Assist fruit growers to adopt effective non-lethal methods of crop protection

- Most fruit growers have now adopted netting, the only consistently effective method of crop protection. For growers yet to take up this option, we recommend that governments provide assistance (eg. with low interest loans) for the installation of nets, ensuring that any assistance is fair to the growers who have already invested in responsible methods of crop protection.



### 3. Implement measures to recover populations of threatened flying-fox species and sustain all flying-fox species to promote healthy ecosystems

- Loss of productive habitats, mortality in orchards and other threats have resulted in decline of flying-fox populations, to the extent that Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes are nationally threatened.
- Flying-foxes face an uncertain, difficult future with ongoing habitat loss, climate change, camp harassment and multiple other threats. Their future viability depends on a much stronger conservation focus.
- Investment in the future of flying-foxes pays dividends in the health of woodlands and forests that benefit from flying-fox pollination and seed dispersal.
- Much of the community conflict about flying-foxes is based on misunderstandings and unwarranted fears. Community education is a vital component of conservation programs.



*Shooting maimed, but did not kill, this young male flying fox.*



*Full exclusion netting, the only humane and effective method of crop protection.*

Find out more at [www.dontshootbats.com](http://www.dontshootbats.com)



[The Wilderness Society](http://www.wilderness.org.au)



[RSPCA Queensland](http://www.rspca.org.au)



[Humane Society International](http://www.humanesociety.org)



[Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland](http://www.wildlifeqld.org.au)



[National Parks Association of Queensland](http://www.npa.org.au)



[Australasian Bat Society](http://www.austbat.org)



[Bats Qld \(Flying Foxes & Microbats\) Inc](http://www.batsqld.com)



[F.A.U.N.A. \(Fostercare of Australia's Unique Native Animals\) Association Inc.](http://www.fauana.org.au)



[www.invasives.org.au](http://www.invasives.org.au)



[Queensland Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Inc.](http://www.qwr.org.au)



[Animal Liberation Queensland](http://www.animal Liberation Queensland)



[Batwatch Australia](http://www.batwatch.org.au)



[FAWNA \(NSW\)](http://www.fawna.org.au)



[Lubee Bar Conservancy](http://www.lubeebar.org.au)



[Tolga Bat Rescue and Research Inc](http://www.tolgabats.org.au)



[Australian Bat Clinic](http://www.austbatclinic.com)



[Bribie & District Wildlife Rescue Inc](http://www.bribie.org.au)



[Flying Fox Rescue Release Noosa Inc.](http://www.flyingfoxrescue.com)



[Mackay Conservation Group](http://www.mackayconservation.org.au)



[Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers](http://www.tweedvalleywildlifecarers.org.au)



[Australian Fauna Care](http://www.australianfaunacare.org.au)



[Cairns and Far North Environment Centre](http://www.cairnsenvironment.org.au)



[Fraser Island Defenders Organisation](http://www.fraserislanddefenders.org.au)



[NSW Wildlife Council Inc.](http://www.nswwildlifecouncil.org.au)



[Victorian Advocates for Animals](http://www.victorianadvocatesforanimals.org.au)



[Australian Tropical Research Foundation](http://www.austropicalresearch.org.au)



[Capricorn Conservation Council](http://www.capricornconservation.org.au)



[Friends of Bats Victoria](http://www.friendsofbats.org.au)



[Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers Inc](http://www.northernriverwildlifecarers.org.au)



[Wildcare Australia Inc.](http://www.wildcare.org.au)



[Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld](http://www.batconservation.org.au)



[Clarence Environment Centre](http://www.clarenceenvironment.org.au)



[Friends of the Koala Inc. \[Northern Rivers\]](http://www.friendsofthekoala.org.au)



[North Queensland Conservation Council](http://www.nqccc.org.au)



[Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia](http://www.wildlifepreservation.org.au)



[Bat Rescue Inc.](http://www.batrescue.org.au)



[Daintree Wildlife Rescue Inc.](http://www.daintreewildliferescue.org.au)



[Queensland Conservation](http://www.qldconservation.org.au)



[Wildlife S.O.S. Inc.](http://www.wildlifesos.org.au)