



**Hon Vicky Darling MP**

Member for Sandgate  
Our Ref CTS 20672/11  
Your Ref OM 11/255



**Queensland  
Government**

16 DEC 2011



Minister for Environment



SCRC CORRESPONDENCE



B0431599

Mr John Knaggs  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sunshine Coast Regional Council  
Locked Bag 72  
SUNSHINE COAST MAIL CENTRE QLD 4560

Dear Mr Knaggs

*John*

I refer to the letter of 14 November 2011 from Mr Andrew Ryan, Executive Director Infrastructure Services concerning a South East Queensland (SEQ) Regional Flying-Fox Management Plan.

The Department of Environment and Resource Management has been encouraging local authorities to develop flying fox management plans for their respective local government areas and I am confident that this can evolve to address the issue at a regional level through a cooperative approach.

You may be aware that the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) has already embarked on the development of a 'whole of city' flying fox management plan which, when completed, will be presented to the department for approval. I consider this model, where the local government authority develops a management plan in direct consultation with its constituents for subsequent consideration for approval by the department as the regulating body, is the most appropriate.

I am sure you can appreciate that, as the approval agency for management plans and DMPs, the department needs to maintain an appropriate level of separation between the development of such proposals and their subsequent assessment and determination. This does not however prevent the department from providing technical advice that will inform their preparation, such as data derived from the department's flying fox roost monitoring program or information relating to flying fox ecology, as it is doing in respect to GCCC's project.

Where an approved management plan is in place, the department can grant a damage mitigation permit (DMP) for up to a three year period to authorise a local authority to manage flying foxes in accordance with its management plan, rather than the six month term that ordinarily applies to such permits. DMPs can authorise a range of management strategies, from undertaking works within a roost that is not subject to public complaints to make it more attractive to flying foxes in the long term; through to dispersing flying foxes from a roost in an unsuitable location and modifying the vegetation to discourage the animals return.

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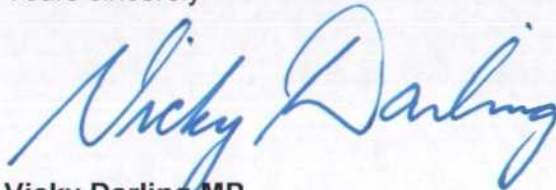
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I would therefore encourage SCRC to embark on a similar planning process to that being undertaken by GCCC. I am advised that the department has previously provided SCRC with advice regarding flying fox management planning, including a template and a Powerpoint presentation.

Given the mobility of flying foxes, there will be circumstances where benefits can be derived from a cooperative and coordinated approach between local authorities in the development of their respective flying fox management plans. I would therefore recommend that local authorities look over their boundaries when undertaking their flying fox management planning process. I would be pleased to ensure that the department provides its input, as I have outlined above, in the same coordinated manner.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If any further information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Joshua Cooney, Principal Policy Advisor in my office on telephone 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely



**Vicky Darling MP**  
**Minister for Environment**