



Hon Dr Steven Miles MP  
Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and  
Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 03743/17

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-7 MAR 2017

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie,

I refer to your letter of 22 February 2017 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2682-17 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 125, you table the response by Thursday, 16 March 2017.

The petition requests that the Queensland Government acquire the vacant allotment at Lot 203, SP210231 (163 Abbott Street, Cairns) and replant the land as a park and to secure the site as an expanded roost area for flying-foxes.

I appreciate the petitioners concerns regarding the conservation of the spectacled flying-fox which is listed as 'vulnerable' in Queensland under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. However, neither the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection nor the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing is in a position to acquire the land and to replant it to expand the roost, in the way requested in the petition.

The Queensland Government is committed to improving the current flying-fox roost management framework to ensure the decisions made are effective, are based on sound science, and do not put Queensland's flying-fox populations at risk. To support this approach, the Government has committed \$2.7 million over three years for scientific studies to improve our understanding and management of flying-fox roosts in urban areas. The program involves satellite tracking of individual animals by the CSIRO and is targeted at creating transferrable knowledge for use by local governments in the future management of flying-fox roosts across Queensland.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Williams, A/Executive Director, Conservation and Biodiversity Operations Branch of the department on telephone 3330 5512.

Yours sincerely

**DR STEVEN MILES MP**  
**Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and**  
**Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef**