

Minister for the Environment
and Tourism and Minister for
Science and Innovation

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Our Ref: CTS 02359/26

6 March 2026

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your email of 10 February 2026 regarding Parliamentary Petition No.4384-26 concerning damage mitigation permits (DMP) for flying-fox management.

I want to begin by recognising the important work wildlife and conservation groups do across Queensland.

In July 2025, the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation commenced a review to understand how growers were affected by the former government's phase-out of DMPs. Through that process, it became clear that some existing permit holders were not able to meet the transition timelines set previously.

The Queensland Government therefore made the decision to repeal the expiry of lethal take DMPs. To be clear, this is not an expansion of the DMP program. The current phase-out restrictions will continue to apply.

Only previous DMP holders can continue to be granted lethal take permits as part of their crop protection strategy, the Code of Practice will continue to apply and current, heavily reduced annual take quotas remain in place. All other fruit growers will remain ineligible to obtain a DMP and must continue to rely on non-lethal strategies to mitigate crop damage caused by flying-foxes.

To be granted a DMP, an applicant must clearly demonstrate that flying foxes are causing or may cause crop damage, reasonable preventative measures have been attempted, significant economic loss is likely without intervention, and the permit will not adversely affect the species' survival in the wild.

DMPs are only used as a last resort by an incredibly limited number of growers facing exceptional circumstances. In 2024-25, only six active DMPs were in place.

The Government recognises the need for limited last resort measures, whilst the industry continues to progress towards effective use of non-lethal strategies.

This approach balances the important obligation Queenslanders have to preserve flying-fox species with the needs of growers for whom non-lethal measures are unworkable.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Powell MP
Minister for the Environment and Tourism
Minister for Science and Innovation