



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

DMP's REINTRODUCED TO SUPPORT FARMERS

Hinchinbrook MP, Andrew Cripps, has welcomed the announcement by the Newman LNP Government that farmers will once again be able to access damage mitigation permits (DMP) to protect their crops from being destroyed by flying foxes.

The announcement will allow farmers to apply for a DMP to cull limited numbers of flying foxes to protect their livelihoods and overturns a decision by the former Labor Government that left fruit growers exposed and without any viable alternatives.

"DMP's allowing for lethal measures to be employed will be re-introduced and allow for similar quotas as those that were in place in 2008 when they were discontinued. This is a practical, balanced and common sense decision" said Mr Cripps.

"This announcement means farmers in North Queensland who have long struggled to control the flying fox problem will now have another tool to employ if non-lethal methods are unsuccessful. The LNP is demonstrating its strong support for agriculture" he said.

"Farmers across my electorate will benefit from these new changes. Flying fox management efforts were severely hampered by Cyclone Yasi in 2011, when large nets covering tree crops were damaged or totally destroyed, leaving growers exposed" said Mr Cripps.

Mr Cripps said DMP's would only be issued to growers who could demonstrate that they had tried non-lethal methods to protect their crop that had proven unsuccessful and stressed that the reintroduction of the permits did not signal an open season on flying foxes.

"I thank my colleague, Environment Minister Andrew Powell, for his practical, common sense and balanced approach to this issue. There will be standards and a framework established to ensure that animal welfare and conservation outcomes are recognised" said Mr Cripps.

"This is another example of the Newman LNP Government delivering on an election commitment to support agriculture in Queensland as a pillar of our economy, particularly our regional economy. It will certainly help agriculture in the Hinchinbrook electorate" he said.

The new code is available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/flyingfoxes/damage-mitigation-permits.html> along with permit application forms, returns of operation and a fact sheet providing further information.

CONTACT: THE HON ANDREW CRIPPS MP
MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

ADDRESS: PO Box 1515
INGHAM QLD 4850

PH: 07 4776 1428
FAX: 07 4776 3503

E-MAIL: HINCHINBROOK@PARLIAMENT.QLD.GOV.AU
