

submitted the survey 'Questionnaire' with the responses below.

What works well in the proposed policy for managing flying-foxes?

Any camp that is in a suburban area, where people are getting nasty about these animals, there should be another environment set up for these wonderful animals further out. As long as there is water and appropriate trees, these animals may end up using this as their colony. Dispersals should never ever be done, when they are in the breeding season. Dispersals should only be done when there are no babies and juveniles, because they will not leave and will keep trying to come back for their offsprings. There is a very strong bond between mother and baby, and dispersals during this time is very cruel and nasty and inhumane. Plant the right trees, near water. Also do not let the gun toting cowboys/bogans access to these areas, otherwise they will not stay there.

What could be improved?

There is so much to be improved because the policies now are just too barbaric and too much of a knee jerk reaction and it has shown, most of the policies have not worked. They cost a lot of money, but they solve nothing. Governments need to start listening to the scientists, to flying fox carers and to people who respect the environment. Governments have to stop listening to the uneducated, gun toting elements in our society. They are a small minority but they seem to get a lot of media attention and the governments ear. Media and governments should focus on the positives rather on the negatives. Panic should never come into the equation.

From your experience are there other things that could be included?

as above.

Any other comments?

One thing that I think is most important. Talk to people who know about these animals. Not just to the ones that have absolutely no knowledge. Keep these uninformed people out of the equation for the moment. Get them educated by any means possible. Use the media to send out positives, not negatives. Try to change minds via the media. In the mean time, start looking at areas, where flying foxes would like to go, give them sanctuaries. Start planting trees and environments, where they can have their colonies. Spend money on that. In that way we can choose where they would like to stay. It is a bit of a longer term solution, but I know it will work in the long run. These animals are very important to our environment, just too important to just shoot and kill

About you

Optional

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