

## SUBMISSION

I am greatly disturbed to read about proposals to allow local councils to try to move on flying fox colonies. They will find this to be very difficult and probably violent.

This area of the MidNorth Coast of NSW is noted for its natural beauty. Much of the forest is still present because of pollination by flying foxes. Many trees are totally dependent on their services to reproduce.

A great deal of our forest country has been cleared for agriculture with the loss of biodiversity and in many cases extinction of both plant and animal species. Humans are to blame for this.

Flying foxes are friends of the environment and its health. They are no more dangerous to human health than koalas, say, or kangaroos.

I worked for many years as a bush regenerator working all day underneath trees festooned with flying foxes with my colleagues. We never experienced any ill health but enjoyed their company, as did the thousands of visiting tourists. They have a fascinating social system and are a very interesting mammal to have around, quite apart from their essential pollination service and we were delighted that they were listed several years ago to be protected as an endangered species.

I urge you forget about attacking our flying foxes. There has been too much destruction of our environment and all its wildlife already.

Judith Cooney