



Media Alert

Grey Cross Day – Brisbane rally and actions for flying-foxes across eastern Australia, 3 Nov

On 3 November, inverted grey crosses will mysteriously appear in multiple locations across eastern Australia and will feature prominently at a rally for flying-foxes outside Parliament House in Brisbane from 12 to 2 pm.

The inverted crosses symbolise the plight of thousands of flying-foxes subject to government-sanctioned shooting in Queensland and NSW.

Both governments issue permits to kill flying-foxes despite the acknowledged cruelty of shooting, the availability of non-lethal methods of crop protection and the vulnerability of flying-foxes to decline, with two species threatened.

The Queensland Government will allow more than 10,000 to be shot over the next year and the NSW Government issues licences for several hundred to a thousand. NSW intends to phase most shooting out by 2014.

Each government has been advised by their own expert committee that shooting of flying-foxes is inhumane. It results in a high rate of wounding and the suffering of dependent young that die of thirst or starvation. The Queensland government has specifically exempted flying-foxes from humaneness requirements applied to other native animals.

Two of the four species of flying-fox subject to shooting are listed nationally as threatened species, vulnerable to extinction.

Grey Cross campaigners call on the Queensland and NSW governments to end the barbaric and unjustified slaughter of flying-foxes. They say it is time for all fruit growers to adopt non-lethal netting, which is far more effective than shooting and generally yields returns that pay for the cost of nets within a few years.

The Grey Cross campaign is supported by dozens of wildlife and animal welfare organisations in Australia and internationally, including [insert groups' names].

The symbolism of inverted grey crosses:

- Crosses commemorate the dead
- Inverted crosses recognise that flying-foxes hang upside-down
- Grey refers to Grey-headed flying-foxes, one of the two threatened species subject to shooting

Brisbane Grey Cross rally details: Speakers Corner, outside Parliament House, 12 to 2 pm, Saturday 3 November.

For more information: www.thegreycross.org or www.dontshootbats.com.

Contact: Louise 0425 73 4008

Images available: email: info@bats.org.au