

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Day of shame: Threatened Species Day marks the start to shooting threatened flying-foxes in Queensland

Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld (BCRQ) today declared Threatened Species Day a dark day for flying-foxes, including two threatened species, with the Queensland Government implementing regulations to allow shooting of flying-foxes.

“The government’s decision to allow shooting of up to 10,000 flying-foxes a year is utterly shameful and will result in terrible animal suffering,” BCRQ President Louise Saunders said.

Volunteers from Bat Conservation & Rescue Qld will commemorate the day with a stall in the Queen Street Mall (8am-2pm) at the National Threatened Species Day event organised by the Zoo and Aquarium Association.

The batty display will feature live Grey-headed flying-foxes, a nationally threatened species that will now be subjected to shooting, a giant bat (costumed human), a bat slide show and bat memorabilia.

“Even the hardest-hearted person who dislikes flying-foxes would be appalled at the suffering that results from shooting in orchards – wounded animals dying over several days and young starving to death,” Ms Saunders said.

“As Queensland’s Agriculture Minister has said recently, there is no excuse for animal cruelty. Humaneness requirements should apply to flying-foxes as much as any other wildlife.

“Shooting flying-foxes was banned in 2008, after Queensland’s Animal Welfare Advisory Committee advised the government that it was inhumane.

“Now, the Government has decided to specifically exempt flying-foxes from humaneness requirements under the Nature Conservation Act.

“Even the two threatened species – Grey-headed and Spectacled flying-foxes – will not be spared.

“It is not only the flying-foxes in orchards that will suffer. Young are born when most fruit is ripening and they will die of thirst or starvation if their mother is shot.

“This is a terrible day for threatened species and flying-foxes,” Ms Saunders concluded.

Contact for interview

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Louise will be available for interview in the Queen Street Mall (outside the Myer Centre), with flying-foxes.