On Friday 7th September Andrew Powell, Queensland’s Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection (yes, environment protection) all but declared open season on the State’s flying foxes. Two of the four species in the Minister’s sights are listed as vulnerable to extinction under both State and Commonwealth law. This move is unprecedented in any local, state, territory or federal jurisdiction and flew in the face of all expert opinion from 28 public organisations and his own department. One of the species hardly eats any fruit, is not a horticultural pest and probably benefits fruit growers by pollinating flowers, but hey! Who has time to think about such details?

During the same time he was running his anti-flying fox campaign Mr Powell happily seized a photo opportunity with ‘Indi’ the koala, apparently to claim credit for the work of others and to demonstrate his credential as a caring minister. It seems that some threatened species are more equal than others. It seems it just depends on how cuddly they appear and which are easy targets for political opportunism.

Yours Sincerely