



AUSTRALASIAN BAT SOCIETY, INC.

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MEDIA RELEASE 21 August 2014 NSW Flying-fox Netting Program Extended

The Australasian Bat Society (ABS) commends the NSW Government on the extension of its flying-fox netting program throughout the State.

President of the Australasian Bat Society, Dr Kyle Armstrong said “The Society supports this use of public money to assist commercial fruit growers provided that the practice of shooting flying-foxes is ended.”

“The shooting of flying-foxes on crops is inhumane because the likelihood of a clean, instantaneous kill is low and the majority of animals that are shot experience a slow death.”

“Shooting is often carried out during the breeding season of flying-foxes, which results in unweaned young being left to die over several days back in their roosting colonies after their mothers are killed.”

“In addition, shooting is ineffective in protecting fruit crops because flying-foxes are highly mobile over many hundreds of kilometres. Their movements in response to flowering and fruiting are unpredictable.”

“Netting, properly installed so that it does not entangle animals, gives fruit growers peace of mind in knowing they will have a crop to harvest. Netting also protects against birds.”

“It is important that Australia maintains flying-fox populations because they play a keystone role in the survival and regeneration of forests and woodlands in eastern and northern Australia. Many vegetation communities rely on their blossom and fruit feeding behaviours to assist with pollination and seed dispersal.”

The ABS appreciates the progress being made to protect crops and calls on the NSW Government to end the cruel practice of shooting flying-foxes.

About the Australasian Bat Society, Inc.

We are a not-for-profit organisation, registered under the NSW Associations Incorporation Act 1984 through the NSW Department of Fair Trading. Our aim is to promote the conservation and study of bats in Australasia. ABS membership is wide-ranging and includes research scientists, natural resource managers, students, ecological consultants, wildlife carers and members of the general public. For further information please visit <http://ausbats.org.au>.