

Mr. Peter Myler,
The Area Manager,
NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
203-209 Russell Street
Bathurst NSW 2795 (EMAILED)

2nd April 2011

Dear Peter

With the return of Grey headed Flying Foxes (GHFF) to Orange this week, and the alarm bells already ringing from a few orchardists, we note that Professor David Goldney's report on this matter to Orange City Council last spring recommended netting as the only sure way to minimise fruit crop damage from the bats and stated that culling was not the solution.

We urge you not to issue culling licences at all this year, but if you must issue them, to keep both the number of licences and the number of GHFF allocated to each licence to an absolute minimum. We must all remember that the GHFF is listed as vulnerable.

Anecdotal evidence indicates that more GHFF were killed last year than were authorised, and no record exists of the number wounded, which could be significant.

One orchardist is already talking about shooting the GHFF with or without a licence, knowing the latter to be illegal. We hope that you will be able to monitor action taken against the GHFF and take appropriate action against those who break the law.

Yours sincerely

Tony Smith

A.N.G.SMITH
Hon. Secretary
Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society Inc./