

**ONLINE SUBMISSION DETAILS**

<b>Date Received</b>	28/03/2017
<b>Organisation</b>	Individual
<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>How do you think we should improve the FFG Act?</b>	<p>I strongly believe that policy makers should take care in only emphasising the conservation of habitats and ecosystems. Sometimes the needs of important native species that may just happen to be found growing or living in urban or degraded habitats need to be considered worthy of protection and conservation too. For example, here in Bairnsdale, we have a colony of Grey headed Flying Foxes (Fruit Bats) that roost in trees on the banks of the Mitchell River, close to the township. The trees the bats roost in are not native and the river bank habitat would not be considered as rare or threatened. The habitat is, however, important from an aesthetic perspective and because it accommodates the Flying foxes. With planned amendments, the safety, security and conservation of this species would be threatened. Grey Headed Flying Foxes already face extreme persecution in Queensland and even in Bairnsdale there is great media bias against them and much misinformation spread about this native species. Without legislative protection, the consequences could be dire for this species - a species that 'plays a very important ecological role in regenerating native plant species by pollinating flowers as they feed and dispersing seeds as they move away after feeding. A single flying fox can disperse up to 60,000 seeds in one night!'. The role the Flying Foxes play in the regeneration of native species is vital. Thank you. (Quote from <a href="http://www.wildlifevictoria.org.au">www.wildlifevictoria.org.au</a>)</p>