

From: [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information [redacted]@ehp.qld.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 3:22 PM

To: CLARE Geoff

CC: WILKINSON Lisa

Subject: [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information Opportunity to Respond letter

Attachments: Matthew Brien_response to customer complaints.doc; Charters FFox Sit-Rep 9 12 13 PM.docx; FILE NOTE CTCRC Flying fox dispersal 9 Dec 2013.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Geoff, please find attached my formal response to the allegations along with a Sit Rep for that day and a more detailed File Note

Regards

[redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information

Wildlife Management Unit, Northern Region

Ph [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information

Mob [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information - mobile

Email [redacted]@ehp.qld.gov.au

[redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Website - <http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au>



RTI DL RELEASE - EHP

From: Wilkinson Lisa

Sent: Tuesday, 18 March 2014 9:08 AM

To: [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information

Subject: Opportunity to Respond letter

Hi [redacted] s78B(2) - Personal Information

Please see attached Opportunity to Respond letter with attachments.

Cheers,

Lisa Wilkinson
Senior HR Officer
Workforce Relations and Safety
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing

Ph: 3181 2488

Level 12, 400 George St, Brisbane QLD 4000

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Situation Report

Charters Towers Regional Council
Flying Fox Dispersal 2013 (Lissner Park)
Under New Management Policy

Date:	9/12/13	Time:	Depart TSV- 1600
Time	Activity	Persons	Result
1735	Arrived, council had cordoned off park, no public allowed in.	Matt Karen Wade	Addressed safety issues and minimised risks to both people and animals
1745	Dispersal activities commenced: car horns, paint ball guns aimed at trees, smoke/fog machines	Matt Karen Wade	Animals began leaving trees All activities in compliance with FFRMP
1755	2 choppers arrived, fireworks (no shells), fire hoses aimed at trees	Matt Karen Wade	Animals continued to disperse High impact activities in compliance with FFRMP
1800	1x female black with young found on ground with baby, both taken by carers who would not give to council vet	Matt Karen Wade	Animal was not sighted falling from air. Carers refused to give animal to vet who was on site
1805	Fire hoses were aimed too high near bats	Matt Karen Wade	EHP officers instructed to aim lower, council complied
1810	Paint balls aimed too close to bats	Matt Karen Wade	EHP officers instructed to aim lower, council complied
1850	All 3 EHP officers (Matt, Karen, Wade) walked entire park	Matt Karen Wade	5-10 little reds dead but >2 days old on ground/in trees, no fresh dead bats
1900	Council ceased dispersal	Matt Karen Wade	Majority of bats gone, public allowed access, EHP officers departed

Please insert or edit rows as necessary

Situation Report

OTHER NOTES

- Population of Black Flying-foxes have increases since assessment on November 5 (estimated population of 500) with population at an estimated 1500 on December 9.
- Population of Little-Red flying-foxes has decreased since assessment on November 5 (estimated 40,000). Estimated 20,000 on December 9.
- Group of several hundred Black flying-foxes situated at northern end of park with young (both dependant and under wing) were avoided by council during dispersal activities.
- During dispersal activities there were several hundred Black flying-foxes observed in flight carrying young.

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File Note

File Reference: TBA

Date: 09/12/2013

File Name: Charters Towers Regional Council (CTRC) Flying– Fox dispersal

Subject (Detail): EHP compliance of CTRC flying fox dispersal under permit WIFF13807313, Lissner Park, Charters Towers – Matthew Brien (EHP)

I (005 Wildlife Ranger Matthew Brien) arrived at Lissner Park, Charters Towers, along with wildlife rangers Karen Dabinett (005), and Wade Kelly (003), at approx. 17:35 to undertake compliance during the dispersal of Flying foxes (reds and blacks) from Lissner Park by CTRC who were operating under permit WIFF13807313. Upon arrival, CTRC had cordoned off the park and prevented public access. Police were on hand, along with dozens of people operating under the guidance of CTRC within the park. Hundreds of people lined the streets. We (EHP) entered the park and were greeted by Mark Crawley (CEO), Ramon Jayo, Bill Hussey, and a vet with ABLV vaccination appointed by CTRC (name forgotten). At around 17:45 CTRC commenced dispersal activities, which included car horns, paint ball guns aimed at trees, and smoke/foggers. At 17:55, two choppers arrived, fireworks (no shells) were let off in open spaces beside trees and fire hoses were aimed at trees. I (Matthew Brien) directed Wade Kelly to observe and monitor fireworks and paintball activities in one section of the park, and Karen to observe and monitor fire hoses in another section. I remained in the middle of the park to monitor entire situation and to liaise with Council (Mark Crawley, Ramon Jayo, and council appointed vet vaccinated against ABLV). At around 18:00 I received a phone call from a lady that told me 1xfemale black flying fox with a baby had landed on the ground outside Lissner Park and was in the hands of wildlife carers (unknown). I asked for the location, and directed the council vet to take any flying foxes into care in order to assess and treat any potential injuries. At 18:05, I observed the council vet talking with people at the edge of the park. He then returned and informed me that they had a flying fox wrapped up in a blanket/towel but refused to hand it over. At 18:05, Karen informed me that fire hoses that were aimed at trees were getting too close to the bats. Karen and myself then instructed council staff to aim lower and not at animals, which they did. At around 18:10, Wade informed me that paint balls that were aimed at trees were getting too close to bats. Wade and myself instructed them to aim lower and not near bats and council staff complied. At around 18:50, all EHP officers (Matt, Karen, Wade) walked through the entire park to check for any injured or dead flying foxes. We counted 5-10 little reds dead but >2 days old on ground/in trees, and no freshly dead or injured bats were found. At 19:00, CTRC ceased dispersal activities as the majority of bats had left, and the public were allowed access to the park. EHP staff (Matt, Karen, Wade) left Lissner Park at around 19:05. I (Matthew Brien) briefed the Director and Senior ranger by phone of the events that occurred before departing Charters Towers.

At no time did myself or my team witness or observe a flying fox get injured or die as a result of dispersal activities. At no time was I provided with evidence that a flying fox had been injured or killed by dispersal activities. Charters Towers City Council was compliant with the conditions of their permit (WIFF13807313) throughout the dispersal.

Author: Matthew Brien
Position: 005 Wildlife Ranger
Unit/Office: Townsville Wildlife Management Operations

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ABN 46 640 294 485

Phone: sch4 - Personal information - mobile

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