



MEDIA RELEASE

Little Red Flying Fox

Four satellite transmitters and 27 radio transmitters have been fitted to Little Red Flying Foxes in the Katherine region as a way of collecting vital data about the little known flying fox.

Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts Biodiversity Conservation Unit scientist Carol Palmer said the \$5000 solar-powered satellite transmitters would be used to track the flying foxes' long distance movements.

Ms Palmer said the radio transmitters would help identify how the colonies move as a group and determine the locations of their colonies and the type of habitat the little reds roost in.

She said four satellite transmitters, each weighing about 20g, would be used along with 27 radio transmitters as part of the collaborative research project between NRETA and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

"For the next 10 months the satellite transmitters will download vital information for seven hours a week which should help us learn more about the Little Red Flying Fox," Ms Palmer said.

"The radio transmitters will last 12 months and flying foxes will be tracked by a combination of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters.

"We know these flying foxes move in response to flowering eucalypt and paperbark trees but there is also a variation in how much these plants flower from year to year and the amount in which they flower.

"So we are basically trying to get a handle on what these flying foxes do, where they go and what they eat.

"Of the 31 transmitters being used in total, only two have been fitted to females as carrying transmitters together with their young might have been asking too much.

"And the advantage of the satellite transmitters is that we can download the locations from the satellite on a weekly basis.

"With the radio transmitters we have to get into a plane or helicopter to find out where the flying foxes go.

"I am hoping that the satellite transmitters will lead us to where some of the radio collared flying foxes are too. They could roost together at various times."

Ms Palmer said Little Red Flying Foxes are the last of Australia's native flying foxes to be researched and they are also the most nomadic and mobile of the Australian flying foxes.

Media note _ For more information contact Carol Palmer on 8944 8477

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