

Deer

Please specify which recommendation(s) you are addressing.

- I support all the recommendations.

What are your reasons for support of the recommendations?

- Recreational hunters are unable to control the deer population which is demonstrated by the huge increase in population over the last few years when the *Game and Feral Control Act 2002* has been operating.
- Landholders are unsure of what they are legally allowed to do to control unwanted deer on their properties.
- Closed seasons exist to maintain populations: this contradicts the requirement to reduce populations of pest species.
- Any income some people make more than offsets the losses by many in damage to infrastructure and competition for pasture.
- If people want to maintain a recreational hunting property they should be required to fence it appropriately so their resource does not impact on neighbouring properties.
- Recreational hunters are interested in trophies, so they do not kill females and younger animals. Pest animal management requires all animals to be killed. Females are arguably more important in reducing the population than males. There is also an incentive to leave some animals so the population is there for future hunting.
- Even if recreational hunters were focussed on pest reduction, they do not exert sufficient pressure to reduce the population – you never hear stories of anyone bagging more than a couple of animals on a hunting weekend.
- Local Land Services (LLS) should be resourced to include deer in their control programs.
- Deer do not respect property boundaries so they can only be effectively managed across the landscape. LLS has the capability for doing this as they already manage wild dogs and pigs across the landscape.

What are your suggestions for improvement in pest animal management?

- Widespread campaign to landholders with information on deer ecology, effective management techniques, best fencing to keep them off valuable pasture.
- Sufficient funding to reduce population to previous levels. This should be in addition to existing LLS rates: government policies treating deer as game rather than feral animals have contributed to the recent rise in the population.

Carp

Please specify which recommendation(s) you are addressing.

- I support all the proposed recommendations.

What are your reasons for support of the recommendations?

- Biological control is the only widespread method that will work. Carp are not constrained by property boundaries, therefore you cannot rely on landholders to manage the carp. There also needs to be follow-up in catching carp that develop immunity to the disease, which is inevitable. This will be expensive.
- Mass fish kill through virus will result in a large volume of rotting fish, which will pollute waterways.
- Community awareness of the effectiveness of the virus, what to do if they find dead fish, and the benefits of not having carp are important.

What are your suggestions for improvement in pest animal management?

- Provide the option of a free fishing licence for catching carp. I do not fish recreationally, therefore have no need for a fishing licence, but I need a fishing licence to legally fish for carp in the river at my place. There are not many, and if I could catch them I would, but I don't want to invest in a fishing licence to do so.

Feral cats

Please specify which recommendation(s) you are addressing.

- I support all the recommendations.

What are your reasons for support of the recommendations?

- Feral cats destroy a huge amount of native wildlife.
- Domestic cats also destroy a huge amount of native wildlife.
- Domestic cats should be managed the same as domestic dogs – ie cat owner should keep them on their property. My experience has been with domestic cats “spraying” my front door, which seeped in and damaged the carpet; cats defecating in my garden, which is a health risk to me gardening, apart from the general nasty smell.

What are your suggestions for improvement in pest animal management?

- Colonies of semi-domestic cats should be trapped and destroyed. As I understand it, they are an anomaly in the *Companion Animals Act*. They are a breeding source of feral cats.

Recreational hunting

Please specify which recommendation(s) you are addressing.

- Feral deer should be no longer listed as game.
- The management of feral deer should be included with other pest animals into regional pest animal management plans.
- Recreational hunters should be invited to be involved in regional pest animal planning and in delivering regional pest animal control programs.
- Increased support for programs that link landholders with recreational hunters.
- The ban on night shooting should be removed.

What are your reasons for support of the recommendations?

- As above. Deer should be treated as pest animals.
- Hunting at night, including spotlighting, and shooting from vehicles (safely), will result in a larger reduction of the pest population.

If any, what are your reasons for non-support of the recommendations?

“There should be no loss of access for recreational hunters. Access to target pest animals on private land should be further improved.”

- I’m not sure what “fair chase” restrictions are, but if it means hunters can cross boundaries into place where they don’t have property owner approval, the restriction should remain.
- Hunters must have approval of property owners of land where they hunt, whether it is private or public. This recommendation appears to want to remove this requirement.
- I do not support continued access for recreational hunters to selected state forests because I cannot find out whether someone is likely to be hunting in a forest I want to visit. If I know someone is hunting, I won’t go there. The argument from hunters that because they are wearing hi-vis clothing I will be safe is ridiculous. They’re carrying a weapon, I’m not. If this can be improved, I would reconsider.