

What are your reasons for support of the recommendations?

I would like to see deer regarded as a pest animal for the following reasons. We have lived here for 37 years and last month came across 6 fallow deer in our back country. We have never seen them here before. My son has been managing a property at Murrurundi for 7 years . Deer were not a problem originally but their numbers have increased exponentially and they are now in plague proportions. A neighbour counted over 200 in a 28 Ha. pasture paddock one evening last year. I feel they are becoming as big a problem as pigs, rabbits, wild dogs etc. Apart from the financial and environmental damage they cause, they are becoming a real threat to drivers on country roads.

What are your suggestions for improvement in pest animal management?

Allowing deer culling in National Parks and Forestry areas would be a good start. This is where they breed.

Any other comments?

On another subject, I can't understand why a virus similar to calcivirus in rabbits can't be released to control feral cats. Give cat owners a 12 month moratorium to vaccinate their pets and then release it. I'm not a scientist, but surely in this day and age it shouldn't be too difficult.