

Email: nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au
Fax: (02) 9228 4970
Mail: Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention Natural Resources Commission

RE: Submission on State-wide Review of Pest Animal Management

Australia is fortunate to have 6 introduced species of deer which provide a significant source of recreation for the thousands of recreational hunters. Deer should remain as game animals to ensure adequate management and involvement of the significant hunting community. Existing control mechanisms allow for land holders to control populations of deer should they become problematic.

To further enhance the involvement of the hunting community greater levels of access should be permitted to allow hunters to expand their already effective efforts in selected NSW state forests. Hunters contribute significantly to regional communities and provide substantial volunteer labour to control pest and game animals. Access should be permitted, in line with the existing DPI Game Unit Model for National Parks, remaining state forests and other public land areas. Further, the ineffective and expensive SPC program in NSW National Parks program should be discontinued and replaced by the existing DPI Game Unit model.

Access to public lands, and the game animals (primarily deer but also pigs and goats) provides a significant amount of meat to myself and my extended family. This is a valuable source of high quality protein that is sustainably sourced. Any plans to introduce baiting or poisoning of these species would not allow people to safely consume this sustainable meat sources for fear of consuming a poison. I absolutely object to any plan to poison game animals particularly with 1080. 1080 poisoning of deer is an inhumane and unnecessary action that introduces toxic chemicals to our ecosystems. Further, aerial culling operations are not warranted in areas where both the public and government could benefit from the involvement of recreational hunters. I do not support aerial culling as the DPI Game Unit is a far more effective and efficient management tool.

In terms of actual impacts from introduced animals, the most significant impacts are caused by wild dogs, carp, Indian Mynas cats, foxes and cane toads. Risk based management would logically suggest that resources should be spent on targeting these species as a matter of priority. To engage and incentivise the public in targeting these species a bounty, similar to the Victorian model, should be introduced for wild dogs and foxes.

To further reduce the perceived impacts of hunters through noise abatement, and to protect the hearing of firearms users, sound moderators should be permitted for recreational hunting and culling. Hearing loss is a significant impact to an individual and is irreparable. Sound moderators for both rimfire and centrefire rifles would also allow for more game and pest animals to be taken by hunters as the reduced report from the rifle does not result in the animals fleeing as readily. Additionally night time shooting under spotlight creates less disturbance for neighbouring residents when conducting animal control on private property.

I request that you consider my submission and provide feedback on where my concerns have been addressed. I may be contacted on the details below.

Regards,

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