

## **Submission to Pest Animal Management Review Draft report**

We live on a rural property of 55 hectares located in the eastern [REDACTED] on the upper reaches of the [REDACTED]. The property, which we have owned since 1974, is a mix of forest and open soak and tussock country.

Over the past 4-5 years we have witnessed a pronounced increase in the feral deer population throughout our district. In co-operation with our neighbour, whose property is 65 hectares, we have invited two hunters from the same family to come on to our properties and shoot deer. Over the past 6 months over two visits of several days, these hunters shot 7 and 9 deer respectively.

We are concerned as to the impact on ecosystems and over the longer term on the biodiversity of our properties that high density populations of deer will have. Presumably the next major drought we encounter will exacerbate pressures, including competition for resources with native fauna.

In the context of these problems, we are incredulous that deer, as a game animal, enjoys certain protections including that of a closed season so that numbers can actually be increased.

We would strongly urge that the status of feral deer be changed from game to pest animal to facilitate the use of all available control options.

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