

Submission to Pest Animal Management Review

Dr Martin Auldish, May 30, 2016.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regards to the 'Shared Problems, Shared Solutions Pest Animal Management Review Draft Report', published in March 2016. I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the recommendation that wild deer in New South Wales be removed from the game list and reclassified as a pest. My reasons for objecting to this recommendation are:

1. Deer are a game animal and a resource and should be managed accordingly. They are of great cultural and economic value. Game hunting brings over \$430 million dollars to the Victorian economy each year, and deer are a major contributor to that. They could make a similar contribution in New South Wales if managed correctly.
2. In places where deer are a pest their populations should be controlled and recreational hunters have shown they can help with this. In places where their impact on the environment and agriculture is low, however, deer populations should be maintained at a sustainable level as a recreational hunting resource.
3. Landowners already have at their disposal all reasonable means of controlling deer on their properties, including spotlight shooting. Declaring deer a pest will not provide landowners with any additional means of control with the possible exception of the use of poison.
4. Declaring deer a pest may have adverse effects on animal welfare including the possible use of poison.
5. Maintaining deer as a game species that requires a permit to hunt provides the basis of a system for regulating and managing deer hunting on public land. Declaring deer a pest species will undermine such public land hunting.
6. In relation to public land hunting, too much emphasis appears to have been placed on input from the SSAA (NSW), despite the fact that many hunters and shooters do not agree with the recommendation to declare deer a pest species. The SSAA clearly have a vested interest in taking control of public land hunting in NSW, such as they have done with the horrendously expensive trial of hunting in NSW national parks.

Yours Faithfully,



Dr Martin Auldish, [REDACTED]