



Allison Waddington

From: Mike Cooper <mcgd@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 18 April 2016 3:46 PM
To: DEER
Subject: Inquiry into wild fallow deer population.

The inquiry secretary,

We own 70 ha of superb, rich agricultural land at Mole Creek. The estimated wild fallow deer population in our area is approx 1000. This is an itinerant population. Mostly there are 2 stags with their does permanently on our land numbering about 50. Others come and go regularly, and it is impossible to count them, as they are so flighty.

The environmental damage is mainly in the amount they eat. What vegetation is destroyed I do not know.

The commercial impact for us is huge. There is no water in the area they move to behind our farm when disturbed, so they keep coming back to drink. This was not a problem till Tas Water took over our private water scheme and metered our property. Now I am paying for them to drink. Thousands of dollars a year.

We are very elderly, and not able to farm our land ourselves, so the land is let to a dairy farmer, for spelling cows. He is not happy that there are so many deer grazing paddocks he is paying for.

These introduced vermin should not be protected. I have made repeated requests to the government, and once was granted 6 tags to shoot males. This is useless. The males are not part of the solution. One male has some 25 to 30 does in his harem. The rest of the males live apart, so they are not breeding. Very very soon they will be the only animal life left in Tasmania if they are not controlled. They are eating the natives out.

The venison should be of use. I once asked a butcher in Devonport about the availability of venison, and he said he just couldn't get it. I know there is a commercial venison farm and abattoir in Mole Creek. Deer skin has a value. In the past when I have complained to the government, I was told they were of enormous value to the state from hunting licences. This might be the only income for the government in a few years. The deer will out eat agriculture.

The reason I know I am paying a lot of money for the deer to drink my water, is that this farm cuts 700 bales of hay each year, and so there is no stock on it for the growing season, but my water bills do not grow less.

I have repeatedly asked for compensation but have been met with derision. "Bad luck"

One other thing I cannot understand is that the insurance companies have not been jumping up and down about the collisions with deer on roads. Has the government ever been sued for having its animals on the roads? It is prohibitively expensive to fence these animals out, as they just step over the fence.

I am aware of the BAMBI SYNDROME where ignorance abounds about the pretty little things, but they are an enormous problem to this state and it needs to be addressed urgently.

Mrs Ruth Cooper.

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