

● ● ● | **DARRELL GREY**

**Darrell Grey, LLB.**  
ABN 44 261 078 515

105 Cameron Street  
P O Box 300  
Launceston  
Tasmania 7250

Tel: (03) 6331 5922  
Fax: (03) 6334 0904  
DX 70185, Launceston  
Email - [liz@zkgp.com.au](mailto:liz@zkgp.com.au)

1 June 2016

Our Ref: DGG:smg:160704  
Your Ref:

Inquiry Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House

By email - [deer@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:deer@parliament.tas.gov.au)

**Attention: Mrs J Mannering**

Dear Madam

Re: Wild Fallow Deer Population in Tasmania - submissions

Please find attached Submissions on behalf of Raymond Charles (Charlie) Davis.

Yours faithfully

D G GREY

# WILD FALLOW DEER POPULATION IN TASMANIA

## SUBMISSIONS

Presented on behalf of Raymond Charles ("Charlie") Davis of Games Meats  
Tasmania, 82 Bowens Jetty Road, Beaconsfield

My primary submission relates to the commercial opportunities for the use of wild population stocks, but I am prepared to make brief comments in respect of the environmental impacts on public and private land.

### Environmental impacts on public and private land

Dealing first with public land, it is noteworthy that the fallow deer are an introduced species, they have spread throughout Tasmania and, in effect, are feral vermin which arguably should be entitled to the same status as rabbits.

The impact upon the public land is probably well documented by the provisions of Parks & Wildlife, however, my brief comment is that these animals destroy native vegetation which places small foraging native animals in a position of competition and ultimately stress, particularly when there are drought conditions.

In respect of private land, fallow deer invade private land, they come from public land onto areas of private land because of the pasture and/or crops and/or water. In so passing:

- a) they damage fences, often requiring replacement;
- b) they eat and knock down crops causing substantial damage to crops;
- c) they eat pasture and, accordingly, compete with the domestic livestock, namely cattle and sheep. This creates a significant financial burden to farmers.

### Partly Protected Status

In respect to their status as partly protected, I accept that there is an advantage, commercial to the State, in respect of the sale of tags for trophies and, further, that a large population of fallow deer encourages, entices and ensures shooting tourism. I am not able to say what the financial benefit is overall and that is not part of my submission, it is simply that I recognise that it has that value, but I

do not believe that that should override the rights of private land owners where, because of the nature of these animals, those private land owners are, in effect, subsidising the State and/or the tourist operators that rely upon the shooting tourists.

Fallow deer appear to be treated much the same as the introduced trout, but unlike the trout, they invade private land causing destruction and, not being native, there is no obligation to conserve them.

#### Commercial opportunities for the use of wild population stocks

The firm that I run is a licensed game meat processing plant entitled Game Meats Tasmania. I am a commercial shooter and I obtain cull tags in respect of one particular farm and I shoot up to 240 fallow deer a year. I am not conscious of all of the commercial shooters, but I am assuming that there are at least 200 in the State and there is no doubt that a number of those shooters operate on very large properties and, as a consequence, presumably shoot far more fallow deer than what I do.

I am unaware as to the number of cull tags that are issued, but again, that information would be available from the division responsible, Parks & Wildlife. I am assuming that they are the ones who issue the tags.

At the moment, most of the deer which is shot pursuant to these cull tags are buried in pits. As a consequence, whatever commercial value there is in those animals is wasted.

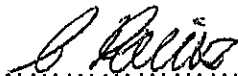
My business, as a licensed game meat premises, is prepared, if permitted, to dress a minimum of 50 deer carcasses a week and it has the capacity in the plant to dress 200 per week. That is a potential commercial value of approximately \$150.00 per carcass. It therefore follows that the minimum value, if permitted, to commercially process these carcasses is \$7,500.00 per week and up to \$30,000.00 per week.

Accordingly, should commercial shooters be permitted to sell the carcasses to licensed game premises, there is potential for a turnover of \$1.5 million in my business alone.

At this point in time, my business employs 4 people. However, should it be permitted to expand, then it has the capacity to employ a further 4 people, all of whom would be full time.

I am prepared to speak directly to the Committee if they permit and/or require oral submissions or from those that have filed written submissions and have questions arising from those submissions.

Yours Sincerely

  
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Raymond Charles (Charlie) Davis  
0408 956 156

1 June 2016

## Allison Waddington

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**From:** Liz <liz@zkp.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 June 2016 4:54 PM  
**To:** DEER  
**Subject:** Wild Fallow Deer Poppulation in Tasmania - Submissions  
**Attachments:** DAVIS scanned ltr Legislative Council 01 06 16.pdf

Attn: Mrs J Mannering

Please see attached letter with Submissions.

Yours faithfully  
Darrell Grey  
Barrister & Solicitor  
105 Cameron Street  
Launceston  
Ph 6331 5922  
Fax 6334 0904