

Allison Waddington

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**From:** dungrove <dungrove@activ8.net.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 June 2016 7:41 AM  
**To:** DEER  
**Subject:** Inquiry Secretary, Ms Jenny Mannering LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO THE WILD FALLOW DEER POPULATION IN TASMANIA

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL INQUIRY INTO THE WILD FALLOW DEER POPULATION IN TASMANIA**

Dear Committee,

I am a sheep and cattle farmer in the Bothwell and Lake Country area of Tasmania. Our fallow deer population is very high and growing exponentially. We participated in the Brian Murphy quality deer management program run by Parks about ten years ago. This has produced a quality herd of stags but the explosion in doe numbers has been an unexpected consequence. To give you an idea, here are some estimates of our farm wild herd statistics:

YEAR	# DEER SHOT	EST DEER POPULATION
1980	2	25
1990	15	200
2000	50	500
2010	300	2500
2015	800	4000
2016	1500	4500
2020	?	?

**NB** These figures do not include transient deer that live in State Forest and Crown land and feed on us. These large numbers are eating sheep and cattle feed, damaging fences and has made growing crops impossible on 80% of the farm.

We have nearly exhausted conventional shooting as a control option and most of the meat is being wasted. Two remaining control options are poisoning and helicopter shooting.

The wastage of meat and skins is a prime concern with all of these control options as it is a healthy premium free range meat and all the deer are in good condition.

I estimate on our farm alone we could provide 2000 deer annually if harvested in a sustainable manner for high quality human consumption.

This would support two people full time and provide 40 tons of premium meat. (value \$1.2 m)

I would welcome legislative changes to enable the opportunity to harvest these wild deer for human consumption.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Downie