



tasmanian conservation trust inc

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17 October 2016

Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A: Wild Fallow Deer

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust has recently become aware of the release of fallow deer onto Bruny Island and we suggest that this matter be considered by the Legislative Council Sessional Committee's inquiry into Wild Fallow Deer.

On a recent visit to Bruny Island, several local residents told me that a group of fallow deer are being regularly seen on the Bruny Island Main Road on the southern end of the neck, in, and around Lutregula Marsh.

I have heard several reports that the introduction was not deliberate but came as a result of an escape from a barge that was being used to relocate them to another nearby, privately-owned, island. Apparently no action has been taken by the owner to retrieve the animals and no action has been taken by DPIPWE to impound them or euthanase them in the field.

My understanding from the reports is that the introduction occurred in recent months but I cannot be certain of the timing of the events.

The DPIPWE publication 'A Statement of Current Management Practices for Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer' shows the distribution of wild fallow deer in 2011 and there were no records of them being on Bruny Island. This map is the only one that appears on the DPIPWE web site therefore we conclude that this is the most up to date information available (<http://dpiipwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-management/management-of-wildlife/game-management/species-of-game>)

If Bruny Island was free of fallow deer at the time of their recent introduction, this is a serious expansion of its range, especially as deer were unlikely to have ever made their way to Bruny Island unaided by people.

The introduction of fallow deer is likely to have serious impacts on natural and agricultural assets of Bruny Island as well as posing an additional risk to road users including the growing numbers of tourists.

The TCT asks that the 'Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration A' receive this letter as a late submission to its inquiry into wild fallow deer. Specifically we ask that the committee investigate:

- the events that are outlined in this letter regarding the apparent recent introduction of fallow deer to Bruny Island;
- whether deer were previously known to be on Bruny Island, either as farmed or wild animals; and
- what, if any, actions have been taken or are proposed by the DPIPWE to deal with this apparent introduction.

Yours sincerely,



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