

The Secretary,
Committee of Enquiry into Tasmanian Firearms Laws,
Parliament House,
Hobart, 7000.

Dear Sir / Madam, it was very disappointing to notice the recent media reports attributed to the farming representative who appeared before the committee. They reported him as insisting that shooting was the only way of keeping native animals out of pasture and crops.

This is quite misleading and ignores the very effective modern game-proof fencing. This is called Stocksafe 119015 according to the local manager of Roberts rural firm. The numbers stand for the number of gaps, the height of the netting (90 cm) and the size of the gaps. Unlike ringlock, which reaches just to ground level, Stocksafe swivels at the base and projects, at ground level, to 30 cm out from the base. A low electrified wire is run along just above the outer edge of the netting and prevents access to it. It is very effective.

Stocksafe is in use on my neighbour's block and elsewhere on Flinders Island. This makes it most unlikely that it is unknown to the farming representative mentioned above. It is so effective that it obviates to local use of shooting where it is used. It should have a similar effect on the Tasmanian mainland. It seriously weakens the case for increased fire-power in the hands of farmers especially those who grow crops.

Yours faithfully,

John Whinray .