

Allison Waddington

From: Chris Bell <chrisbell63@bigpond.com>
Sent: Sunday, 5 June 2016 12:07 PM
To: DEER
Subject: Inquiry into Feral Deer

Dear Secretary

This is just a very, very brief submission to the Legislative Council's inquiry into introduced deer. My deepest concern is the destructive impact – ongoing and cumulative – of introduced deer on the Tasmanian environment generally – but more specifically – on our World Heritage Area.

The damaging effects of any introduced animal on an environment it is not endemic or native to are widespread worldwide and should be a warning of what the ramifications of not controlling introduced pests are. The case in point when it comes to feral deer is, of course, New Zealand. The catastrophic ruination of New Zealand's beech forests in particular (closely related to ours) has to be seen to be believed. We cannot allow this to happen in Tasmania – particularly in our World Heritage Area. It seems very obvious that some introduced animals seem to have little damaging effect for many years and then, BANG, their abilities to survive – *and do well* – in an environment which was hitherto marginal, becomes permanently established. Once deer expand into Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair National Park, for example, it may be forever impossible to remove them. For this reason, it seems crucial for us to begin the process of permanently **removing** them from the Tasmanian environment. Whilst I realise that there will be many hunters who will be impacted, we just have to realise that it is in our fragile environment's interest to eradicate them (rather than pandering to the interests of some hunters). They do not belong here and their presence belittles what is the natural order of things on this island. It is also pertinent to point out that our understanding of what 'the environment' means changes throughout time. What seemed normal in 1867 in Yellowstone National Park in eliminating wolves from the park (as early managers did not fully understand what a healthy ecosystem meant), became baffling as land managers more fully understood what a normal, healthy, wilderness environment was in the years following the park's establishment. The evolving consciousness of American environmentalists and law makers changed to the point that anyone who understood the Yellowstone ecosystem realised wolves were a crucial entity and should be re-introduced into the park (which they subsequently were in 1995). Even though hunters in the US did not favour the re-introduction (and still don't) most people accepted that it was a wise and wonderful thing. We can live with the complaints of a few hunters, but we can't live with a ruined Tasmania.

We need to recognise what a healthy ecosystem is, and eradicate these destructive animals from Tasmania. They do not belong here and there is no time to lose.

Yours sincerely

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