

16 June 2016

19

Ms Jenny Mannering.
Inquiry Secretary.
Legislative Council.
Parliament House.
Hobart. 7000.

Dear Ms Mannering,

Here is my foundation's submission to the inquiry into the wild fallow deer population in Tasmania. I congratulate the Legislative Council for this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Brown
Bob Brown Foundation
Hobart
0448 243200

WILD FALLOW DEER POPULATION IN TASMANIA.

1. **THE PROBLEM.** I concur with the recent report from the University of Tasmania [Lefroy, Johnson, Bowman] and comment by former TFGA chief executive Jan Davis [Mercury, 20 January, 2016]. I fear that current official fallow deer population estimates are far too low. The deer are rapidly expanding their range and are embarked on a comprehensive invasion of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area which will lead to the destruction or extinction of unique Tasmanian plant, animal, bird and insect species.
2. **ANECDOTE.** When I settled in the upper Liffey Valley in northern Tasmania in 1973 deer were nowhere to be seen. Since the 1990s, deer are often seen on that farmland and in the forest. I expect that a rare ground fern on Drys Bluff may be soon wiped out.
3. **TASMANIAN WILDERNESS WORLD HERITAGE AREA [TWWHA] and the TARKINE.** Both these international drawcards for the Tasmanian economy face invasion and rapid colonisation and habitat destruction by fallow deer. This invasion can be stopped in 2016 but will be irreversible in 2026. Once entrenched in forested areas, in particular rainforest areas, the deer will prove ineradicable.
4. **CENTRAL PLATEAU AND TIERS.** Fallow deer are already spreading west along the Great Western Tiers and across and south of the Central Plateau components of the TWWHA.
5. **NEW ZEALAND.** Tasmania has much to learn from New Zealand though it will never emulate that country's commercialisation of [red] deer culling and farming. A 1997 survey there 'revealed that the New Zealand Conservation Authority and thirteen [regional] conservation boards, plus regional councils, environmental, tramping and botanical organisations, all agreed that wild deer were a pest which threaten the survival and biodiversity of New Zealand's native vegetation and ecosystems and should be eradicated whenever and however possible. The keeping of Northland free of deer is a pointer for keeping areas of Tasmania free of deer.
6. **Goat control should be incorporated into deer control strategies.**

7. Deer farms should be banned except within 'traditional' wild deer territory. Deer farm escapes are not preventable.
8. Protection of deer on public lands should be withdrawn.
9. Helicopter culling and 1080 poisoning proved to be the turning point for deer control in New Zealand at its current feral population of some 250,000. As 1080 poisons many wildlife species in Tasmania [there are no native mammals in New Zealand], this is not an option here. Helicopter culling is a best-available option for Tasmania.
10. Fallow deer cannot be eradicated once established in forested areas but their population in such areas can be controlled. Deer [and goats] can be prevented from spreading to new areas. Aerial culling is required.
11. The Federal Government shares responsibility for the TWWHA and coastal Tarkine and ought to share the costs of protecting these vital natural heritage areas from deer. Once infested, the cost of control will be millions of dollars per annum.
12. The impending ecological catastrophe of fallow deer invading prime forested areas of the Tasmanian wilderness warrants urgent action and an independent agency to institute and maintain protection from this threat.
13. The current spread into sensitive areas by pioneer fallow deer should be rolled back. A barrier line to deer, such as the Lyell, Marlborough and Lake Highways, with clearance of deer from nearby areas east of this line should be quickly established. If not this barrier, then another should be urgently adopted.
14. Fallow deer should be removed from the state's northwest and south as a matter of urgency.

Dr Bob Brown.
President.
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Allison Waddington

From: Paul Thomas <thomopaul@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 17 June 2016 6:07 PM
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Subject: Feral Deer submission
Attachments: Deer Submission.docx

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Ms Jenny Mannering.

Inquiry Secretary.

Legislative Council.

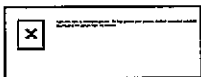
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