

Allison Waddington

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**From:** jpjehughes@bigpond.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 June 2016 11:18 AM  
**To:** DEER  
**Subject:** Fallow deer enquiry

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to make a submission to this enquiry.

I am a general practitioner in Launceston with over thirty years experience and I have a science degree majoring in zoology.

I hunt recreationally to provide high quality healthy game for my family and friends.

Addressing the terms of enquiry:

1. The wild fallow deer is a feral animal that is now well established in the wild and expanding in both numbers and distribution.

It causes significant damage to crops and is becoming an increasing hazard on the road in a number of areas, particularly the midlands, central plateau and the Launceston /Deloraine region.

Only 3 weeks ago a patient of mine collided with a deer on the Bass Highway near Hadspen with her car being written off. She was lucky to only suffer minor injuries.

2. As above, fallow deer have a significant impact on crop productivity in many areas. They will damage gardens in the country and fringe urban areas.

3. I find it hard to believe that this pest species remains highly protected with a limited hunting season and very small take limits for hunters.

With the increasing impact of deer on cropping enterprises, farmers are having to obtain increasing numbers of permits to try to control the deer population on their properties.

I believe the hunting of fallow deer should be completely de-regulated with their status to be equivalent to that of rabbits and hares.

If a landowner wishes to regulate deer hunting on his property to provide trophy hunting, that is his right, but equally a landholder should be able to shoot deer on his property at any time free of Wildlife Regulations. Similarly, hunting of deer on public land where permitted should be completely de-regulated.

4. There may be commercial opportunities for the use of wild population stocks, but the history of minimal if any success of farming fallow deer in Tasmania suggests this would be unlikely. This is not my area of expertise.

5. I believe there would be significant savings for the state in de-regulating the hunting of fallow deer. Wildlife officers would be able to perform other duties such as National Park work, police would similarly have time for other duties. The bureaucracy around licencing, tags, returns and permits could be dismantled. The current situation where landholders and hunters can face significant penalties for taking a feral pest species in contravention of Wildlife Regulations would cease to exist.

Yours faithfully,

Dr John Hughes  
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