

Allison Waddington

From: Belinda Downward <belinda.downward@catholic.tas.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 June 2016 9:59 PM
To: DEER
Subject: Submission : Legislative Council Inquiry into the Wild Fallow Deer Population in Tasmania

To The Inquiry Secretary

We wish to provide the following submission regarding the Legislative Council’s Inquiry into the Wild Fallow Deer Population in Tasmania. We have been involved in farming deer in Tasmania for the last sixteen years.

The environmental impacts on public land, has been adequately maintained through Crop Protection Permits for Fallow Deer. 16,708 tags were issued in 2015 (Game Tracks, 2016 p14), which indicates a reduction and control of feral populations. These permits ensure conservation of forests and open native pastures. To reduce the impact wild deer are having on some farming communities across Tasmania culling, is an effective strategy. We personally have not experience any negative impacts from wild deer on either of our two deer farming properties at Northdown and Upper Natone.

Any changes in current policy on the control of, Wild Fallow Deer would have a detrimental impact on commercial activities for current Deer Farmers including us. Those who have invested a lot of time, energy and money would be forced out of business. A change in regulations would certainly devalue existing livestock. If wild deer harvested by recreational hunters, were to be commercially sold, there would be a decrease in the market value and no quality control. Tasmania promotes itself with high quality, world-class produce. The deer farming industry should met the highest quality control and should not be threatened with the introduction of allowing wild deer for human consumption. A comparison can be drawn to recreational trout anglers being allowed to sell their daily catch with different hygiene standards, which is obviously, not the case.

The effect of selling wild deer for human consumption has short term benefits however will not sustain the industry in the long term.

"The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has estimated that by 2050, food production worldwide will need to increase by 70 per cent (FAO, 2009) if:
all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."
(United Nations, FAO, Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, 2009)

The key point we would like to stress is the access to safe and nutritious food. Without strict quality control ‘The Australian Standard for hygienic production of wild game meat for human consumption’ could not possible be adhered to, as stated in appendix G ‘Only wild game animal carcasses fit for human consumption are presented to wild game meat processing premises’ (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/Books/download.cfm?ID=5697> p56)

We support the partly protected status of fallow deer regulations under the Wildlife (General) Regulations of 2010 benefiting both hunters and landowners. 2016 has seen changes to the duration of the open season for fallow deer and an increase in bag limits. The 2016 Open Season data would be limited in its reliability to predict the impact this new management plan would have on wild deer numbers. Records of up to five years would show a more definite trend like the data to be gathered from the 1st January 2016 on the Crop Protection Permits for wallaby and Brush-tail possums.

We have spent a significant amount of time and money into establishing our business and infrastructure under our business name, 'Majestic Fallow'. We believe the Legislative Council should not allow the change in legislation to allow wild shot venison to be sold for human consumption. Genuine concerns of a decrease in market value, quality assurance and meat hygiene standards are valid reasons to be considered and investigated further in this Legislative Inquiry.

Thank you for reading our submission.

Acknowledgement of this email would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Belinda and Nigel Downward

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