

Legislative Council Inquiry Into The Wild Fallow Deer Population In Tasmania
30th June 2016.

I represent a number of perspectives on wild deer in Tasmania

- 1) as the owners and operators of Australia's largest fallow deer farm where animals are handled and sent for slaughter
- 2) as a farming business which includes high value cropping within the feral deer range
- 3) As the previous operator of a deer slaughter premise.

I believe the existing policy on wild deer in Tasmania largely has the correct policy settings that allow for the animals to be harvested where necessary in a humane manner while at the same time protecting the existing commercial deer farms and allow for the control of deer on public and private land.

I would suggest that the existing tagging system be extended from one year to five years to bring it in line with other wildlife. This would make it easier for land owners to better plan the most appropriate number of deer to control over the medium and long term. It would also reinforce the existing system where lactating females would not need to be taken to prevent adverse welfare outcomes on their fawns.

The retention of tags from both a land owners and deer farmer's perspective is essential to ensure a chain of custody exists for enforcement in the field and market place. It is also necessary to minimise the amount of wild shot product entering the local market.

The sale of products from wild shot deer should remain restricted and closely controlled. There has been a significant period developing the existing regulations around hunting wild deer in Tasmania and the regulations enforcement. Any dilution of the regulations will inevitably lead to an increase in illegal activity and social problems in the areas where wild deer and indeed farm deer exist.

My family and other land owners have continual problems with trespass, fires and other activities associated with fire arms that would only made worse by either increasing the value of wild deer or making enforcement more difficult.

Impacts of deer on public land

I support the position of the TFGA and the Tasmanian Deer Farmers Council that deer be controlled on crown land particularly where it adjoins environmentally sensitive areas or private land. Best endeavours should be made to ensure wild deer are not permitted to use plantation areas as corridors to facilitate their spread, particularly into previously uninhabited areas. My observation is this has occurred over the last decade or so.

Impacts on the activities on private land

My own farming operations are negatively impacted by wild deer. The recent liberalisation of tag supply for crop protection is most welcome and has allowed a more timely response where problems occur. I believe the department should be congratulated for adopting this approach.

The previous position where land owners were virtually required to maintain unacceptably high levels of deer was a poor policy which in my view should not be reintroduced.

The basic principle should be the devolution of decision making to the local level around what is an acceptable level of deer to be maintained by each property.

The recently introduced system should be given the opportunity in my view to be allowed to work. It should ultimately let each property manager decide how many deer will be carried per farm.

The partly protected status of fallow deer under the Wildlife (general regulations 2010)

I strongly support the partly protected status of fallow deer remaining. I also support the Tasmanian Deer Farmers Council position on this issue.

Farmed Deer in Tasmania

I am the president of the Tasmanian Deer Farmers Council . we represent all the commercial deer farms in Tasmania

I am also a past President of the Tasmanian Deer Farmers Council of the TFGA and have served as Vice President of the Australian Deer Farmers Federation up until the withdrawal by Tasmania from this body.

The Tasmanian Government formally established the Deer industry with the issuance of 5 licenses in 1978. I was issued with game farm Licence Number 1

I was present at all the meetings associated with the establishment of the deer industry between the deer farmers and the government departments (then known as NPWS and Department of Agriculture).

There were a number of central premises which were at the core of the agreements reached.

Deer farmers would initially be established using a combination of wild caught stock and deer at the time in private wild life parks. I owned deer in a park at that time.

The status of the farm deer would include the transfer of ownership and the acknowledgment that farm deer would be treated in a similar manner to other domestic stock by government departments. Farmed deer would be administered by the then Department of Agriculture.

Initial agreements included a greater level of fencing and scrutiny outside the "feral range". Deer kept in private wildlife parks would retain the regulation and permit requirements of the time and be administered by the then National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Deer farmers were given an undertaking in 1978 that the regulation of farmed deer would be for a two year trial only and then they would be classified as "stock " under normal legislation.

The industry was given undertakings that there would be a continued ban on wild shot product being sold to restaurants and butcher shops and this would be enforced through the *Meat Hygiene Act* and administered by the DPI/PWE.

Disincentives to industry growth would be removed where possible.

There has been a dilution of the regulation agreed by the industry and government in recent years (2010 was the last time). No changes have had a positive effect and have been done without industry consultation or consent.

There is general agreement animal welfare has not been taken into account by recent regulation.

The effect has been to make deer farming a less attractive option for farmers and to make it an offence for farmers, who were bound by the stock act in any event, not to immediately report any escapes.

The policy should have been to encourage new participants to build their farms in such a way as to facilitate easy recapture of stock. I would like to see the more recent regulations removed.

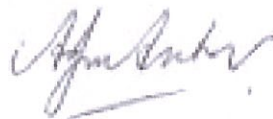
Any proposal to allow wild shot venison to be sold for human consumption would undo 38 years of market development and investment. It would make our business uneconomic.

It would put the existing specialist deer slaughter premises out of business. I strongly request the current ban remains in place.

There are strong precedents that allow farmed products to be sold only when processed correctly. Salmon is a good example where any escaped animals may be eaten but not sold.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to provide written submissions.

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Norwood
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Allison Waddington

From: Anthony & Lynda Archer <norwood.est1@bigpond.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 June 2016 4:59 PM
To: DEER
Subject: Emailing: Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 002, Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 003, Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 001
Attachments: Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 002.jpg; Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 003.jpg; Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 001.jpg

Please accept my submission into Wild deer In Tasmania

Anthony Archer

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 002 Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 003 Wild fallow deer Submission Anthony Archer 001

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