

Allison Waddington

From: Leigh Roberts <lrkilnformedglass@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, 27 May 2016 12:11 PM  
To: DEER  
Subject: Comments for submission to the Legislative Council inquiry into the Wild Fallow Deer situation in Tasmania.

Comments by Peter and Leigh Roberts on the 27th May, 2016.



The Secretary

We are pleased to be able to respond to issues to be investigated by the Legislative Council in relation to negative impacts caused by the increasing Wild Fallow Deer population on the environment.

We have resided on a 2.43 hectare property at the above address for 22 years. In the past year we have frequently seen family groups of up to 5 individuals and lone deer on our property and that of neighbours as well as on the Clarence Council controlled bridle paths surrounding our land. In the past, and especially last spring and summer our property has been severely impacted by the destructive effects of rabbits. To compound this situation the effects of wild deer defecating and trampling on our garden and feeding on our trees (fruit, native and non-native), ornamental and vegetable gardens and all areas right up to the house has been most distressing. The enormous cost of deer proof fencing is beyond our capacity as pensioners to afford - not to mention the unsightliness it would it would create.

Of greater importance to us is the damage that is continuing to be perpetrated on thousands of hectares of bushland by these introduced pests and we see it as an environmental disaster. Wildlife experts such as Nick Mooney have warned of the implications for years . Last Jan/Feb I had a letter to the 'Mercury' newspaper published on this matter and sometime later a very informative and questioning letter from Mr Mooney was published.

Our enquiries re control of these animals to Parks and Wildlife and the Clarence Council resulted in 'buckpassing' (no pun intended), until finally an officer of the Clarence Council told me by phone that it was the responsibility of the owners of deer farms to catch the deer. What owner is going to take that impossible responsibility or admit to deer escaping or deliberately released from their properties? What of the deer that have been breeding for decades in the Central Highlands and beyond and are now moving into urban areas?

These animals are a danger to motorists on the unlit roads of Acton Park and surrounding areas such as Cambridge and they also spread disease that can affect livestock.

We are encouraged that the Legislative Council is to investigate this problem that if not appropriately addressed will be exacerbated over time if nothing is done to control or eradicate a beautiful but inappropriate and destructive presence in the unique and sensitive Tasmanian environment.

Leigh Roberts.  
Peter Roberts.