

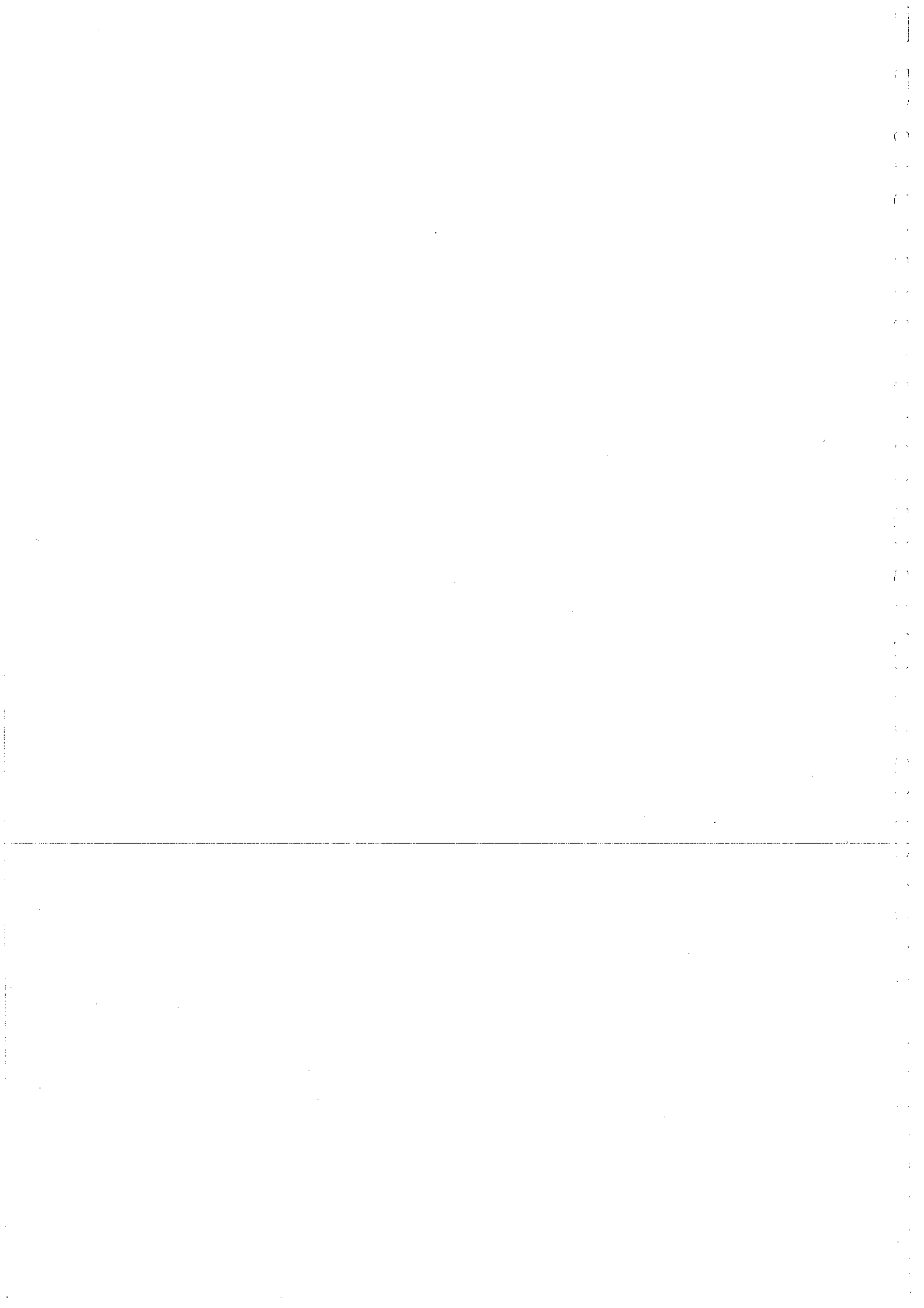
R.I.D.G.E. INC

(Research into Deer Genetics and Environment)

ATTACHMENTS  
FOR

R.I.D.G.E.

Wild Deer Discussion  
Paper



# Queenslands wild deer and their role in sustainable wildlife management

CLARK J. MCGHIE<sup>1</sup> AND STEVE WATSON<sup>1</sup>

The majority of all wild deer in Queensland occupy land that has been radically changed by man since their release. This paper will suggest possibilities where a low impact game animal such as the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) can be utilised as a useful management tool in the fight to protect and enhance native habitat. These possibilities include red deer being retained as a recognised asset on a landowners property which can have flow on benefits to both native animals and the environment. Suggestions are made as to why they should be regarded differently to other introduced species as well as listing possible controlling factors which have traditionally kept herd populations in check.

Key words: Red deer, *Cervus elaphus*, native habitat, wildlife management, environment.

## INTRODUCTION

This paper is written with the benefit of twenty years of continual and intensive field work with wild deer which includes, deer hunting, live deer capture, deer farming, velvet production and grading, stud breeding and professional guiding. There is great concern held by a large cross section of people within Australia with regard to the future of wild deer herds in Queensland. Although much of the evidence presented in this paper is anecdotal, it has been sourced from many individuals with experience in the utilisation of deer. Thus it is a good starting point for research. Wild deer herds have the ability to be a management tool to promote and retain natural bush habitat. Unfortunately, wild deer are now seen by some as being an unnecessary alien which require no management and if possible should be removed. It is argued in this paper that such an approach is neither practical nor expedient.

The majority of wild deer habitat within Queensland has been radically changed since their release. To make the land more suitable for cattle, sheep, dairy, cropping and forestry large areas of the Brisbane, Burnett and Mary valleys have been altered. Hundreds of millions of trees have been either cleared or poisoned and vast areas have been cultivated for crops or pasture. Evidence of these changes can be easily seen within a few hours drive of Brisbane.

As todays younger generation of farmer looks towards the land they can see problems arising that could never have been envisaged by their forefathers. Wide spread erosion, soil depletion, the disappearance of native grasses and fauna as well as the die back of so many of the remaining trees are all directly linked with traditional farming practices. This is not to suggest that the man on the land should bare all the responsibility

for those problems as he has largely been a victim of circumstances. Life on the land has never been easy and landowners do what is necessary to survive. When faced with low commodity prices, recession and drought, often the result is more pressure being put back on the land. It makes sense to present alternatives to landowners in a way that highlights their economic benefits. If there is to be a long term future on the land, farming methods need to be embraced that decrease the impact on the land, its plants and animals. The sustainable use of wild deer is just one of many alternatives available..

## POPULATION BIOLOGY OF RED DEER

### Distribution

There are four species of wild deer within Queensland; fallow (*Dama dama*), chital (*Axis axis*), Mollucan rusa (*Cervus timoriensis*) and red (*Cervus elaphus*). For the purpose of this paper, only the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) will be examined, although, there are many similarities between the different species.

Red deer were first released at Cressbrook Station in 1873 in the Brisbane Valley (Fig. 1) with a further release during 1874. They became established across an area that still remains as a natural boundary to their expansion. Their total range is now at least 1,437,500 ha, with the main concentrations of animals within an area of 750,000 ha. (Bentley 1976). (Fig. 1)

Many landowners and hunters believe that the herd reached its highest population density during the late sixties, possibly slightly higher than the official Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage (QDEH) present estimation of the red deer herd which is between 8-10,000 animals. (Queensland National

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Pages - in CONSERVATION THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILDLIFE, ed. by G.C. Grigg, P.T. Hale and D. Lunney. Centre for Conservation Biology, The University of Queensland. 1995.

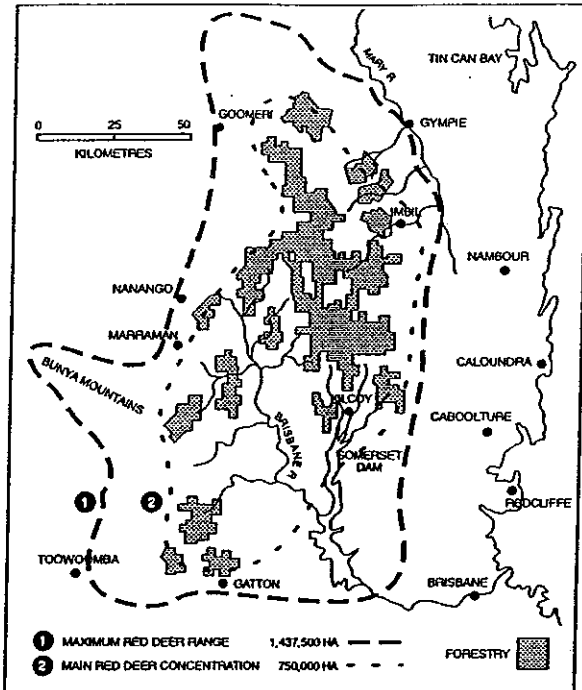


Figure 1.

Parks and Wildlife Service 1991). In direct contrast, during the same period of time New Zealand's red deer have colonised 5.9 million ha and at one time numbered at least 1 million animals (Nugent 1992). It is interesting that the New Zealand releases have done so well when Queensland's herd has only reached a fraction of the size (Nugent 1992; Challies 1985). Has it been due to the abundance of habitat and food offered to them in New Zealand, the total lack of non-human predation in New Zealand compared to the abundance of predators within Australia, the contrasting geography of each country or a combination of these factors and others?

**Physical characteristics**

The red deer of Queensland have adapted well to the alien environment they were introduced into. During 1873, two definite strains of red deer were released (English and German) with the possibility of a third (Scottish) at a later date (Bentley 1967). Queensland red deer have been moulded and shaped by their environment over the last 130 years to the point where most people within the deer farming industry regard them as a separate strain of red deer when compared to those from other parts of the world (English *et al.* 1984). Deer hunters also see Queensland's wild red deer as somewhat different from those in other parts of the world which helps to give them an appeal as a trophy animal. This appeal is the attraction that brings many hunters from interstate and overseas each year to hunt these animals and can be directly linked

to a portion of the total economic value generated by wild deer which is well in excess of \$70 million annually (Cause 1990).

Those morphological differences noticed in Queensland red deer include, body weight and style, antler length and structure, facial shape and temperament. Factors influencing these attributes might include, geographic location, seasonal feed fluctuations and quality, predation, hunting methods and trophy selection. Noted deer experts agree that environmental pressure can force changes upon wild deer causing noticeable changes within species in relatively short periods of time (Banwell 1994).

**Environmental impact**

The environmental impact of a deer herd such as the red deer can only be estimated, due to the lack of conclusive studies on the subject. Wild game species have long been blamed for massive environmental problems in New Zealand and while there is evidence to support some of these claims, it is now generally accepted that domestic livestock, with the widespread changes to the environment they promote, have had a greater effect (McSaveney 1988). When introduced species are kept at acceptable levels, their impact on the environment can be minimised. It is now obvious that the New Zealand vegetation was once heavily browsed by the now extinct Moa and also altered significantly by uncontrolled burning during Maori times (McLone 1988). A controlled number of wild deer may create few if any additional environmental problems (Nugent 1992). These same sentiments are expressed by a majority of landowners within the Queensland deer range. It is widely believed that deer have far less of an impact on natural habitat than other introduced animals. Detailed research could verify this opinion and suggest population densities and management techniques. Methods of harvest such as recreational and professional hunting along with trapping have the proven ability to achieve and maintain desired population densities (Wallis *et al.* 1988). It is possible that the wild deer herds, at this stage need only a slightly more professional approach to management to increase herd quality and minimise any adverse environmental impact (Murphy 1993).

**Population growth**

It is far easier to manage and control an introduced animal population if it does not have the ability to reproduce rapidly. Red deer, when kept under quality conditions on a deer farm can achieve a breeding herd growth rate of around 40%. (Fig. 2a, Line 1). In Scotland, studies on wild red deer have shown natural mortality rates of about 3% of adults and 10% of calves. Under severe winter conditions this can be as high as 15-20% and 60-70%, respectively (Mitchell 1981; Youngman

1981). If these higher figure were used to determine a possible growth rate for the Queensland red deer herd, it would suggest a growth rate of 10%. This growth rate would have given a population of between 15-20,000 animals by 1960 (Fig. 2b, Line 2). This is a far higher population than has ever been estimated by the QDEH which suggests a growth rate of less than 10%. In

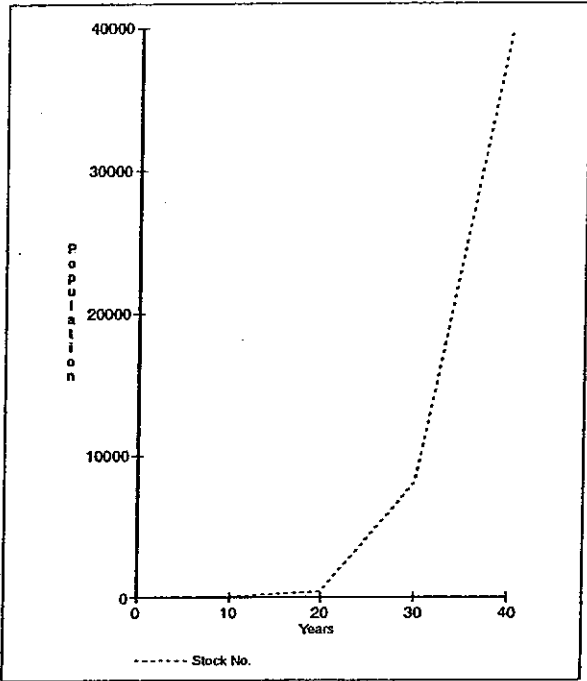


Figure 2a. Estimated population growth of red deer herds based on conditions in: deer farm (40% annual growth).

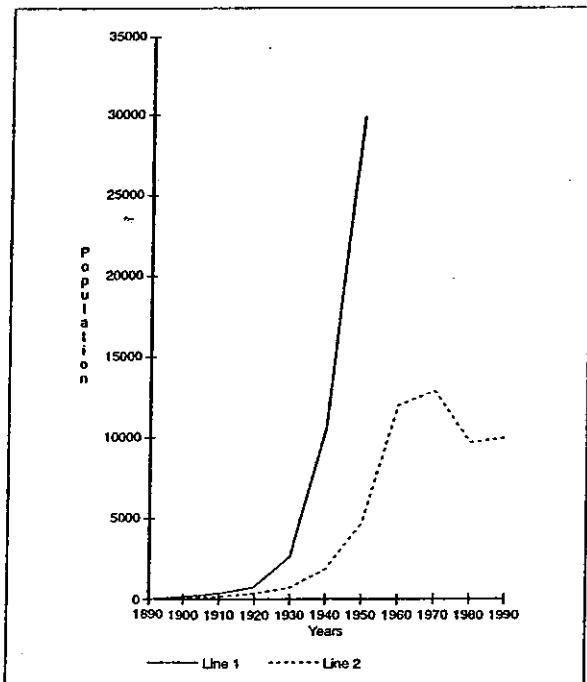


Figure 2b. Estimated population growth of red deer herds based on conditions in: New Zealand (15% annual growth); and Queensland (10% annual growth).

contrast, the growth rate for the wild red deer herd of New Zealand has been far higher. By 1960 their wild red deer breeding herd would have numbered at least 500,000 and since then over 2 million wild deer have been harvested with at least 33,000 needed as an annual quota to maintain the status quo (Nugent 1992). The growth rate for the New Zealand wild red herds would have been at least 15% (Fig. 2b, Line 1).

This figure suggests that the Queensland red deer have been under constant pressure since release from both the environment and man which have succeeded in maintaining a low overall population. This has been an important factor in minimising the environmental impact of wild deer within this area.

### Predation and harvest

One of the major factors which has sheltered the wild red deer from any population explosions has been predation. Scrub ticks (*Ixodes holocyclus*) and wedgetail eagles (*Aquila audax*) are known to prey on young red deer calves at times (MacKenzie 1984) but the major predator would be the dingo (*Canis familiaris dingo*). When dingo numbers are high, few red calves are seen to reach maturity. The total human harvest of red deer would be hard to determine as there has always been a substantial illegal harvest (Bentley 1967). Although there has been a legal tag system operating since 1976, it is poorly supported with only an average of 26 tags being issued each year. (QNPWS 1991). An unofficial estimation of the harvest of red deer by hunters is between 700-1500 animals per year.

Table 1. Red deer natural increase estimation.

Initial herd total	8000 – 10000 (QDEH estimate)
Sex ratio	3:1
Number of females	6,000 – 7,000
Natural mortality	10%
Calf survival	40%
<b>Resulting natural increase</b>	<b>1800 – 2200</b>

This would suggest that the required harvest to maintain the current population density is well within the reach of sport hunters and deer farmers within South East Queensland. Thus it could be possible to maximise the benefits of this herd for landowners and hunters without increasing the environmental impact. This could be achieved by the acceptance of sensible and sustainable management techniques.

### MANAGEMENT OF RED DEER

#### Landowners

The concept of deer management is not as alien as some would believe. Since their release, most

Table 2. This comparison has been drawn up using average cattle values presented in accurate market surveys (Queensland Country Life 1994), commercial deer values (MacKenzie et al. 1993), wild deer management data (Mitchell & Youngman 1981) and deer stocking rates (English et al. 1984). The area compared would be 1000 ha of timbered cattle country, running 250 head of dry cattle and a wild herd of 100 deer. (2:1 ratio). Expenses would include fencing, timber poisoning and clearing, stock cartage and commission on sales, weed control and property surveillance.

	\$/head	Number	Gross Value (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Nett return (\$)
Yearly cattle value increase	200	250	50 000	10 000	40 000
Possible revenue from wild deer:					
Mature stags	500	5	2 500	nil	2 500
Meat/Live animals	200	35	7 000	nil	7 000

landowners have adopted the role of herd manager and have either culled or protected the deer as they saw fit. Landowners would reduce deer numbers in times of drought or crop damage but generally would accept their presence in controlled numbers, during average years. Some even regard the deer with pride and have set aside areas of their properties for the deer, excluding domestic stock. During the mid 1970's, farmed deer began to command high prices due to record prices for live deer and velvet in New Zealand (Anderson 1984). Once the wild deer gained a value to the landowner they were guarded with ferocity. Who could blame landowners, trying to recover from the infamous "beef depression", for trying to gain an income from what many considered to be simply a pest? This era did however set a precedence by giving these animals a commercial and tangible value to the people who control their habitat. Although live deer prices fell sharply, they are again on an upward cycle due to the promotion of venison and velvet markets. This has increased the value of deer to the landowner by as much as \$50 per head since October 1994 and a considerable shortage of animals to supply these markets is expected within 12 months.

### Recreational Hunting

Sport hunting remains the single biggest and most easily accessed avenue available to landowners who wish to gain some revenue from the wild deer on their properties. Many cultures have some form of organised hunting as part of their social system (Whitehead 1993), with some deriving a large portion of their revenue from these pursuits. Countries like America and New Zealand are demonstrating that the ecotourism industry of recreational hunting has the potential to create income at least equal to that of more orthodox farming practices (Muir 1988).

One extremely important fact to consider is that deer and other game animals can be successfully managed, harvested and improved without the need for them to be penned or handled. There is also little need to clear, burn or improve habitat for game animals in fact, in the vast majority of cases, game species play

a vital role in the promotion of habitat retention. It has been clearly shown that deer are the only introduced wild animal within this part of Queensland that can produce a significant return to both the landowners and the community without the risks associated with other feral animals such as pigs, goats and foxes. While landowners have a reason to manage and preserve wild deer, they will preserve the habitat which in turn benefits the native animals. Landowners who have fostered good relations with hunters, have found them to be of significant value to the overall management of their properties.

### Herd management and utilisation

Already some landowners are managing deer. Their aim is to utilise existing wild deer populations on cattle country in a way that will eventually enable them to decrease stocking rates and timber treatment (poisoning).

If the deer were not utilised or removed, it would take an 18% increase in the cattle stocking rate to generate the same extra gross income. This would create far more pressure on the habitat than if the cattle were left at a lower stocking rate. Red deer, being a browsing animal by nature, are known to utilise introduced plant species such as lantana and groundsel, which are largely out of control throughout the deer range. From this example it can be argued that a well managed deer herd has the ability to generate significant revenue without an increase in any of the associated cattle expenses. Hunters could also be given the option of labour in exchange for hunting rights. This has the added appeal in that it frees the landowner from time consuming work.

In Tasmania, where there is a wild population of fallow deer, the concept of Quality Deer Management has been adopted by the majority of deer interest groups and Government Departments within that State who are now represented as the Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee (TDAC). This is an American deer management concept which has proven to be highly

effective and successful within that country (Murphy 1993 and this volume).

It is argued that wild deer need some form of legislative protection and status to enable landowners to maximise management techniques and property security. Historically, landowners have had little success in obtaining trespass convictions against deer poachers. The majority of poachers convicted have been charged under the "Fauna Conservation Act 1974" which enabled a person to be charged and all articles associated with the taking of "Fauna" illegally to be confiscated if that person was found in the possession of designated "Fauna" without a permit. With this Act now repealed, it will become increasingly more difficult for landowners to protect the deer on their properties. If the value of wild deer to a landowner is eroded by an increase in illegal activity, many will take the alternative which is to lower wild deer numbers on their holdings, clear or poison the habitat and run more domestic livestock.

### CONCLUSION

Immense changes to Queensland's environment have been witnessed over the last 50 years. We need to be looking at every possible alternative which offers an incentive to landowners to preserve habitat. The sustainable management of wild deer offers many possibilities to landowners which could improve their viability on the land without the need to increase stocking rates of domestic stock. The challenge of today's policy makers is to use the existing fond sentiments held by many hunters and landowners towards deer, in a way that benefits all.

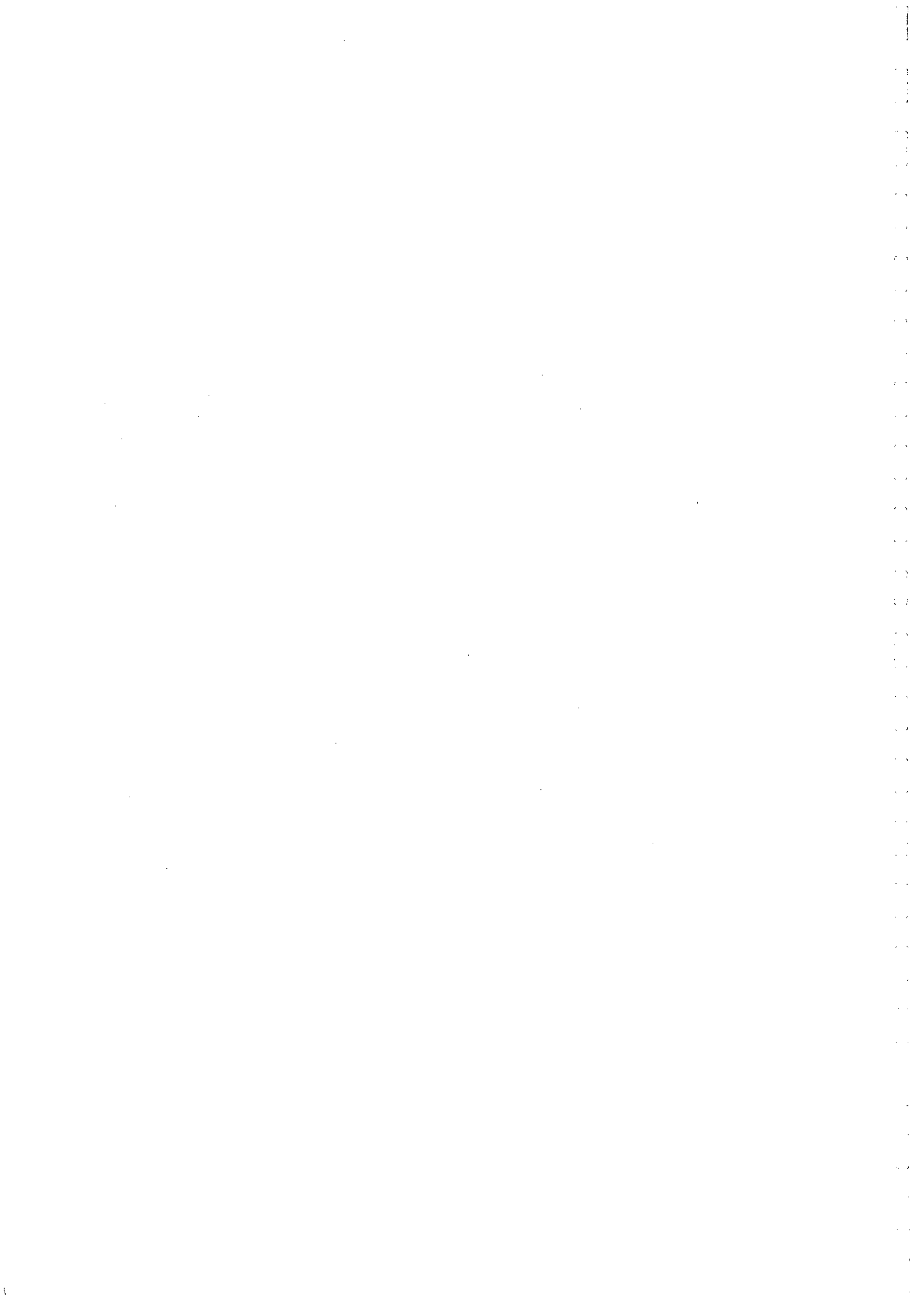
We need to question the stigma placed upon introduced species such as deer by those who would have them removed and instead, look for what these animals can offer us in return for their safe and sustainable management.

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*Handwritten note: "Introduction Deer"*





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## MINISTER FOR LANDS



9 FEB 1995

93/02550

The Honourable Molly Robson MLA  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Ms Robson

I refer to your letter of 22 December 1992 concerning the protection of wild (feral) deer in Queensland.

In response to the suggestion that the taking of wild deer may be regulated under the Rural Lands Protection Act, the Land Protection Branch of my Department of Lands has advised me that the economic and environmental risks posed by feral deer outweigh any beneficial uses. Protection of feral deer populations, via regulation of shooting/harvesting, is difficult to justify for several reasons:

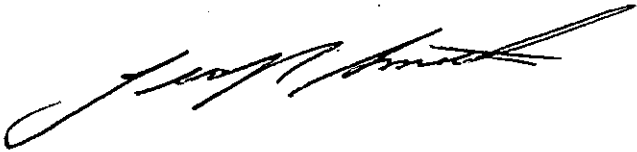
- the various deer species presently running wild in Queensland are considered to be minor pests at present, with certain species possibly having the potential to become more costly and destructive pests in the future. Of major concern is the potential for feral deer to act as vectors of exotic diseases such as screw-worm fly which, if introduced into Australia, could cripple our export beef industry. Of additional concern is the proliferation and spread of wild deer beyond their present feral ranges into more environmentally sensitive areas of State including National Parks.
- a primary objective of the Rural Lands Protection Act is the eradication of introduced species which pose a threat to Queensland agriculture and the natural environment. Since all deer are exotic species which may possess unrealised pest potential and may act as vectors of exotic disease, it is not appropriate for this Department to protect such species.
- effective regulation over the taking of wild deer would be a costly exercise. Such a task would require the development of a permit system combined with the appointment of field inspectors responsible for policing the regulations. At present the Department of Lands does not have the resources to administer or police such controls. Existing resources must not be diverted from higher priority issues such as the control of major introduced pests, including parthenium weed, rubber vine, feral pigs and foxes, which are causing significant economic and ecological destruction over large areas of Queensland.

M.C.U.

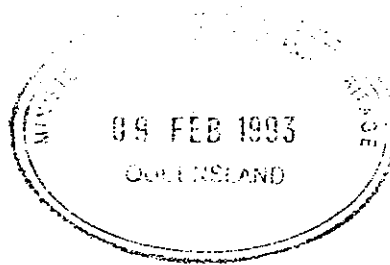
if concerned deer hunters and landholders wish to conserve such exotic species for their own enjoyment, they are free to establish private deer farms on their own properties. Such farms must of course be suitably fenced to prevent escape and be operated in accordance with the relevant permit system presently administered by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries under the *Deer Farming Act of 1985*.

I trust this response clarifies my Department's views on this issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G N Smith', written in a cursive style.

**G N Smith**  
**MINISTER**



2000 56 Att 4



# Minister for Primary Industries

93/02778

19 FEB 1993

The Honourable M.J. Robson, MLA  
Minister for Environment and Heritage  
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Molly,

I refer to your recent request to consider the viability of regulating the taking of feral deer within the provisions of the legislation administered within my portfolio.

While I empathise with those landholders in the Brisbane Valley who wish to retain the protected status of feral deer, I like yourself am seeking to rationalise the burden of legislation upon the Queensland public and in particular the rural community.

To this end, I have recently approved measures which will repeal the Deer Farming Act and require that industry to become a commercial entity in the same manner as other grazing industries. Feral deer, cattle, sheep and goats will all now be accorded the same status.

As there is no other legislation, which would be appropriate to use for the granting of protected status to feral deer or the regulated taking of deer within my portfolio, I regret I am unable to assist you in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

EDMUND CASEY  
Minister for Primary Industries

M.C.U.

17 FEB 1993



FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT

<u>Prohibited Fauna</u> Hatters, Gerbils Scaats, Weasels, and a few exotic birds	<u>Non Protected Fauna</u> Hare, rabbit, fox, Feral goat, pig, cat, donkey etc. Includes four species of native fruit bat and three species of "Crows".	<u>Protected Fauna</u> Includes basically all the native birds and animals of the State. <u>INCLUDES DEER</u>	<u>Permanently Protected Fauna</u> Only 10 native birds and animals, e.g., Kuala, Platypus, Beldina, Paradise Parrot, etc.
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"Pest" Deer

Application can be lodged  
at any time of the year  
stating property descrip-  
tion, type and extent of crop  
damaged, etc.

These permits may be issued  
to destroy. Carcass should  
be destroyed, i.e., no part  
of the skin, flesh or antlers  
may be used.

Trapping of Wild Deer/Methods

(This is controlled by Q.M.P.V.S  
who take local Authority re-  
quests into account).

Application can be made to establish trap(s)  
to Q.M.P.V.S specifications by  
(a) property owner; or  
(b) other person with property owners sign-  
ed approval.

Use of helicopters may be permitted or re-  
stricted. Helicopters are banned for the  
1988 season; season is declared and fixed  
in the Govt. Gazette, currently 11/6/88 to  
30/9/88.

A maximum of 30 deer may be taken; royalty  
at \$60 per animal is payable.

Application shall be made to convert these  
animals (fauna) to "farm deer".

When such fauna is converted to farm deer  
they are then controlled under the provisions  
of the Deer Farming Act 1985 by the Department  
of Primary Industries.

"Culling" or Open Season

Applicant must complete form  
stating he has the property  
owners permission to hunt and  
show all property details with  
owners authorization/signature.

Season is declared and fixed  
annually in Govt. Gazette.  
Maximum of two deer may be  
taken; royalty for tags is  
\$60 each.

This is a very brief outline of fauna designation and control. Interested parties would be well advised to direct  
enquiries to their nearest Q.M.P.V.S office. Heavy penalties exist for non-compliance with Act, e.g. confiscation of  
equipment, fines, double royalties, etc.



# Capture and handling of red and fallow deer in Queensland

A. K. Searle and M. S. Parker, National Parks and Wildlife Service

BOTH red and fallow deer are being increasingly taken from the wild in Queensland by those interested in farming these animals.

## Introduction

Red deer and fallow deer were introduced into Queensland primarily as a source of food and recreation. Both species have spread from their original release points (see Searle *Queensland Agricultural Journal*, March-April 1980 and January-February 1981) but distribution now appears to be stable. Figures 1 and 2 map areas where deer are now found.

Both species have been hunted since the early 1900's with greater interest in the red deer as the more attractive game animal. Since the proclamation of the Fauna Conservation Act of 1952, under which they were protected, much of this hunting has been done illegally, the exception being during a limited open hunting season on red deer in 1976. Taking of both species has always been permitted, however, under pest destruction permits issued where they have caused significant problems to farmers.

The interest in deer by trophy hunters and meat shooters is now rivalled by the interest in deer farming. Many landholders within the deer ranges (figures 1 and 2) who once regarded these animals as tolerated pests or private game animals now see them as potential breeding stock for deer farms, and deer stalking has in consequence taken second place to deer trapping.

Deer in Queensland are the property of the Crown under the Fauna Conservation Act of 1974 but may be trapped under permit issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service to persons intending to farm deer within the known deer distribution range.

## Capture

Red and fallow deer like most animals are creatures of habit and before any trapping programme is

initiated a knowledge of their seasonal movements, resting and grazing areas and favoured routes is needed to provide a basis for deciding which capture technique to use and where to use it. Local knowledge of the proposed trapping area over a period of years is an advantage, as deer frequently disappear suddenly and later, when they may be thought to have

disappeared completely, reappear just as suddenly.

Figure 3 shows the normal yearly behaviour of red and fallow deer including the times when deer group, either as mixed or as all male or all female and young groups. The best trapping time is during winter, when native pasture is normally scarce and the deer are

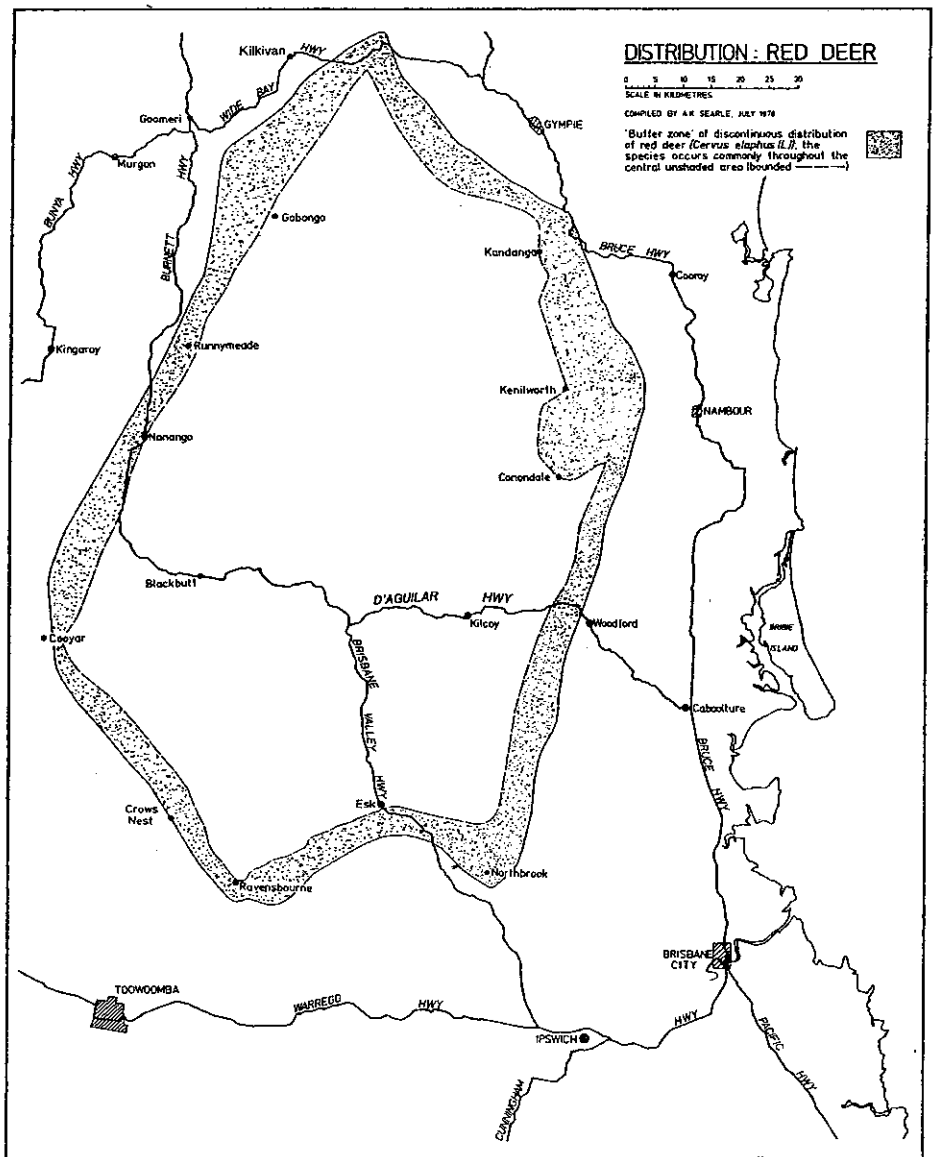
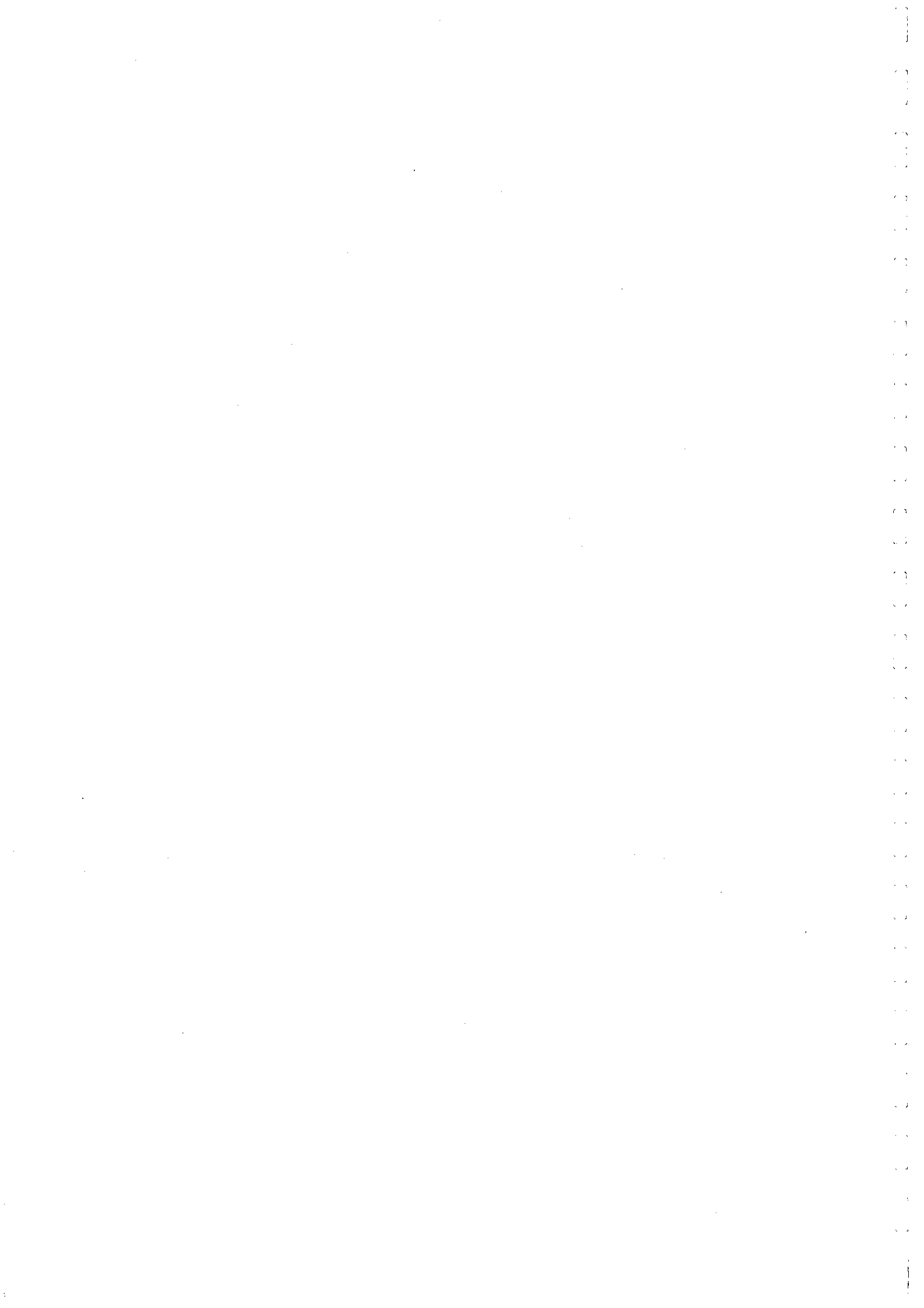


Figure 1. The distribution of red deer in Queensland.











Deer Farming Act 1985

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Executive Building, Brisbane, the twenty-sixth day of September, 1985

Present:

His Excellency the Governor in Council

HIS Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of the provisions of the *Deer Farming Act 1985*, does hereby constitute the parts of the State described in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto to be feral areas with respect to the species of deer set out opposite thereto in Column 2 of the Schedule and assigns to the feral areas so constituted the names respectively specified in Column 3 of the Schedule.

The Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Description of Feral Area	Species of Deer	Name of Feral Area
Commencing at the town of Biggenden on the Biggenden-Woolooga Road, thence generally south-easterly by that road, the Wide Bay Highway and the Bruce Highway to the point where that highway meets the city of Gympie boundary, thence generally south-easterly by the eastern boundary of the city of Gympie to Randwick Road, easterly by that road to Williams Road, south-easterly by Williams Road to East Deep Creek Road, thence westerly by that road to the city of Gympie boundary, southerly by that boundary to the Bruce Highway, thence generally southerly by that highway to its junction with the Kenilworth-Skyring Creek Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Tuchekoi Road, thence by that road to its junction with Kandanga-Brooloo-Kenilworth Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Kenilworth-Eumundi Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Obi Obi Road, thence by that road to its junction with Mapleton-Montville Road, thence by that road to its junction with Montville-Maleny Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Landsborough-Maleny Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Maleny-Stanley River Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Kilcoy-Beerwah Road, thence by that road to its junction with the D'Aguiar Highway, thence by that highway to its junction with the Brisbane-Woodford Road, thence by that road to the point where it meets the northern boundary of the parish of Samsonvale near Dayboro, thence by the eastern boundaries of the parishes of Samsonvale and Parker, the northern boundary of the parish of Samford, the northern and western boundaries of the parish of Sahl and the northern boundary of the parish of North to the point where it meets the Brisbane Valley Highway near the township of Fernvale, thence generally north-westerly by that highway to its junction with the Coominya Connection Road, thence south-westerly by that road and the Coominya-Forest Hill road to its junction with the Warrego Highway, thence westerly by that highway to the point where it meets the Southern and Western Railway Line at Gatton, thence generally westerly by that railway line to the point where it meets the southern boundary of the	Red Deer	Red Deer Feral Area

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Description of Feral Area	Species of Deer	Name of Feral Area
parish of Murphy, thence westerly and northerly by the southern and western boundaries of that parish to the point where that boundary meets the New England Highway, thence northerly by that highway to its junction with the Kingaroy-Cooyar Road, thence by that road to its junction with the Bunya Highway near Kingaroy, thence by that highway to its junction with the Murgon-Byee Road, thence westerly by that road to its junction with Lancaster Road, thence northerly by that road to its junction with the Murgon-Gayndah Road, thence generally northerly by that road to its junction with the Burnett Highway, thence northerly by that highway to its junction with the Isis Highway at Ban Ban springs, thence generally north-easterly by that highway to its junction with the Biggenden-Woolooga Road to the point of commencement.		
Commencing at the southern boundary of the State at the Texas Border Crossing Place, thence northerly by the Inglewood-Texas Road to its junction with the Cunningham Highway at Inglewood, thence generally north-easterly by that highway to its junction with the Karara-Toowoomba road at Karara, thence generally northerly by that road to its junction with the Leyburn-Cunningham Road at Leyburn, thence generally easterly by that road to its junction with the Ryeford-Pratten Road, thence north-easterly by that road to the point where it meets Dalrymple Creek, thence generally easterly by that creek to the point where it meets the western boundary of the parish of Goomburra, thence northerly and easterly by the northern boundary of that parish and the northern boundary of the parish of Gladfield, the northern and eastern boundaries of the parish of Fassifern, the eastern boundaries of the parishes of Clumber, Emu Vale and Killarney to the southern boundary of the State, thence by the boundary thereof generally south-westerly and north-westerly to the point of commencement.	Fallow Deer	Fallow Deer Feral Area
Commencing at the south-eastern corner of the parish of Kangerong, thence generally northerly and easterly by the eastern boundaries of the parishes of Kangerong, Malmesbury, Tregaskis and the southern boundary of the parish of Sybil to the point where it meets the eastern boundary of Fullstop Holding, thence northerly, westerly and north-westerly by the eastern, and northern boundaries of that holding and the northern boundary of Mount Dudley Holding to the point where that boundary meets the northern boundary of the parish of Marsden, thence generally south-westerly and southerly by the western boundaries of that parish and the parish of Tuppal to the point where that boundary meets the north-western boundary of Fullstop Holding, thence south-westerly and southerly by the north-western	Chital Deer	Chital-Deer Feral Area

*Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985*

## OPEN SEASONS

## ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Executive Building, Brisbane, the second day of June, 1988

Present:

His Excellency the Governor in Council

HIS Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of the provisions of the *Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985*, does hereby:—

- (a) declare the period set out in Column 3 of Schedule I hereto as the period of open season with reference to the districts specified in Column 4 thereof for the species of fauna described in Columns 1 and 2 thereof;
- (b) specify that such fauna may be taken only in accordance with the terms, conditions and restrictions set forth in Schedule II hereto.

And the Honourable the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Tourism is to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

E. J. BIGBY, Clerk of the Council

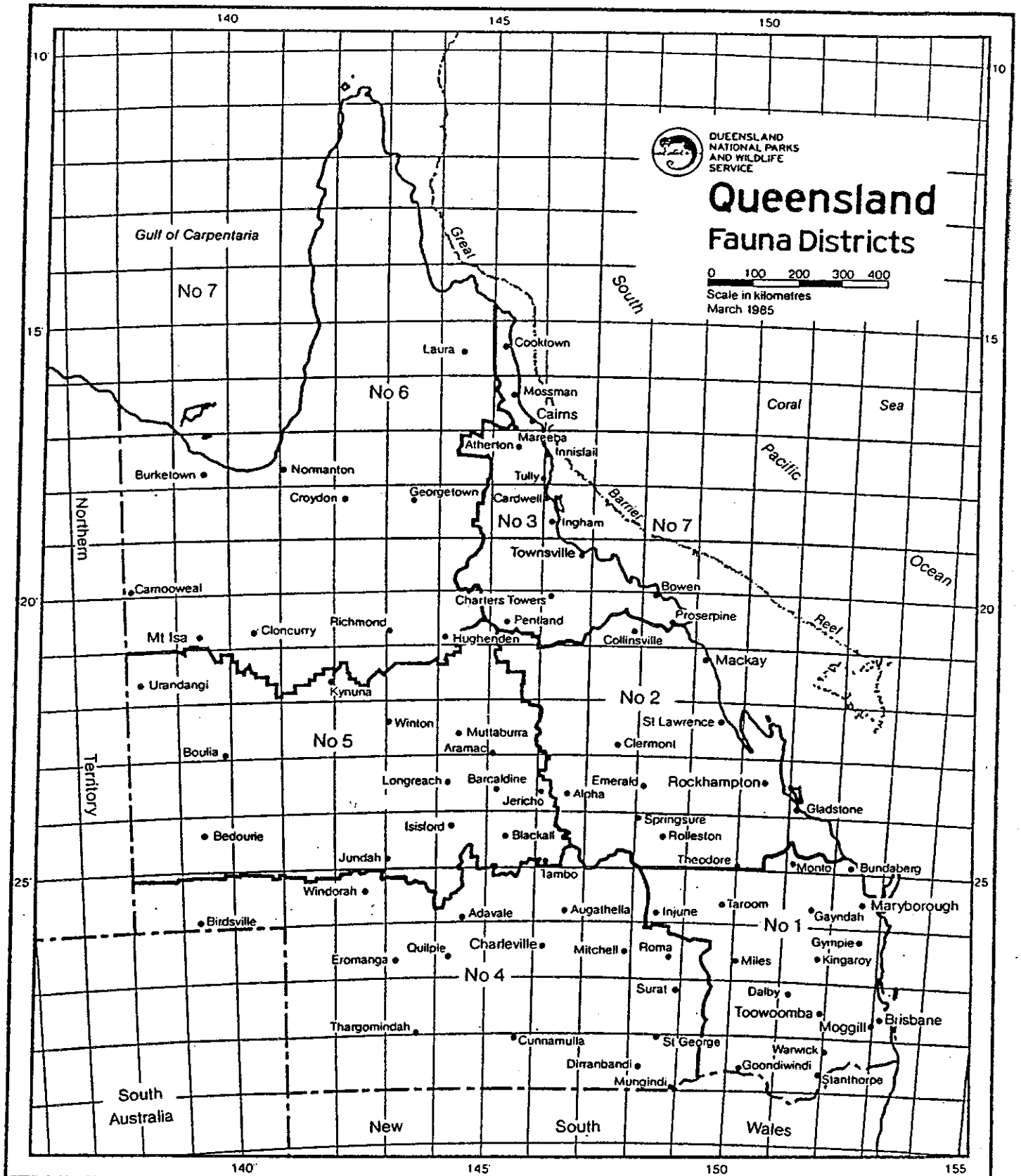
*Schedule I*

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4
Common Name	Scientific Name	Period	District
(1) Red deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	11th June, 1988 to 30th September, 1988	1
(2) Fallow deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	11th June, 1988 to 30th September, 1988	1
(3) Chital deer	<i>Axis axis</i>	11th June, 1988 to 30th September, 1988	3

*Schedule II*

1. Taking of such fauna by the Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder is to be by a ground trap at a designated site only.
2. Taking of such fauna by the Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder is to be by shooting in a humane manner using—
  - (a) a centre-fire rifle with a minimum calibre of 0.243;
  - (b) a long bow having a pull weight of not less than 22.5 kg and a minimum draw of 70 cm or its equivalent for a compound bow with a broad-head arrow having a minimum of 2 sharpened cutting blades; or
  - (c) a cross bow having a pull weight of 36.5 kg and with a broad-head arrow having a minimum of 2 sharpened cutting blades.
3. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder shall fully attach to the skin or antler of each fauna (No. 1-3 in Column 1) at the point of taking a plastic tag supplied by the Director.
4. The plastic tag shall be attached by—
  - (a) threading the tongue of such tag through a strip of the skin or around the base of an antler of the fauna; and
  - (b) inserting the tongue of such tag into the slot at the other end of the tag until it is securely locked.

The plastic tag so attached remains the property of the Crown and shall not be removed from any fauna without prior permission of the Director.
5. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder shall not—
  - (a) have in his possession tags other than tags allocated to that Open Season Fauna Permit; and
  - (b) except with the prior permission of the Director, attach to any fauna any tag other than a tag supplied by the Director for the open season.
6. Tags supplied by the Director to an Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder shall not be transferable to another person and shall not be attached to any fauna by another person except with the permission of the Director.
7. Tags supplied by the Director to any person pursuant to this open season may be recalled by the Director at any time and shall be delivered up at the time and place specified by the Director.
8. Fauna taken by the Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder are for the permit holder's personal use only and shall not be used for any other purpose (including sale or other form of commercial gain).
9. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall not take more than 30 specimens of the fauna prescribed in Schedule I hereto.
10. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder shall not take more than 2 specimens of the fauna prescribed in Schedule I hereto.
11. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall submit a return to the Director in the prescribed form no later than 14 days after the last day of each month. The return shall include numbers and species of deer taken during each month.
12. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Personal Use) holder shall submit a return to the Director in the form of the record card attached to the permit no later than 14 days after the expiration of the permit. The left lower jaw of each deer taken shall be submitted with such return.
13. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall pay royalty at the rate prescribed in the Fifth Schedule of the Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985.
14. Fauna taken by the Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall be used for farming purposes only and shall not be used for any other purpose. All such fauna shall be made "farm deer" under the provisions of the *Deer Farming Act 1985*.
15. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall not site or re-site traps to be used for the taking of fauna except with the prior permission of the Director. The Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) holder shall not establish a number of trap sites exceeding the number of trap sites specified in the Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale).





Tag No. 3431117  
Receipt 23248  
Fee \$60.00

# Permit to take deer

15/86

Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985 (Section 25 (1))  
Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985 (Regulation 13 (2))

This permit authorizes ROBERT JOHN SIMPSON  
name  
of 99 OLLERA STREET  
address  
GUYRA N.S.W. 2365  
the authorized agent of CLARK JAMES McGHIE  
name  
of LANGLEY via NANANGO 4315  
address  
on and from 18/4/86 to and including 31/8/86 to take RED  
date date species of deer  
which are causing significant damage to property (including crops) on the holding of  
CLARK JAMES McGHIE  
name of owner or occupier  
at LANGLEY via NANANGO 4315

the property description of which is

Name of holding LANGLEY Area of holding 2,500 acres  
Portion 52 Subdivision  Resub.   
Parish GALLANGOWAN County FITZROY

subject to the following terms and conditions

- This permit shall remain in force during the period specified unless suspended, cancelled, surrendered or revoked.
- This permit does not authorize the taking of any deer other than species RED
- The taking of deer is restricted to within the boundaries of the abovementioned holding.
- Deer are to be taken only by shooting. The provisions for the Firearms and Offensive Weapons Act 1979-1984 shall be complied with in this regard.
- Due regard shall be had for public safety and for public opinion.
- Deer taken under this permit remain the property of the Crown and under the control of the Fauna Authority.
- Where deer are to be removed from the holding a tag approved by the Conservator is to be attached to the head and cape at all times after the taking of the deer by the permit holder.
- This permit allows the permit holder to remove the tagged head and cape from the abovenamed holding to  
ROBERT JOHN SIMPSON  
residential address in full 99 OLLERA STREET GUYRA N.S.W. Subject to any N.S.W. Import restrictions
- Where it is intended to remove the tagged head and cape to any other place, whether inside or outside of Queensland, application for such removal shall be made in Form 26 of these regulations.
- This permit authorizes the permit holder to keep number ONE species RED  
tagged deer heads and capes that have been taken pursuant to this permit at his permanent place of residence, which is  
99 OLLERA STREET GUYRA N.S.W.  
address
- The tagged head and cape are not to be used for the profit or gain of the permit holder.
- The disposal of the deer carcass is to be at the discretion of the permit holder. This permit does not authorize the removal of the meat of the deer from the abovementioned holding. All other laws relevant to this matter shall be complied with, including the Meat Industry Act 1965-1983 and Meat Industry Regulations 1973.
- The permit holder shall carry this permit with him at all times when he is engaged in the taking of deer authorized to be taken by him by this permit.
- The permit holder shall conduct his activities in conformity with the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985.
- This permit does not authorize the taking of deer in any fauna sanctuary, refuge, or reserve, nor does it authorize entry into any land without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupier or authority controlling such land.
- The permit holder shall be issued with a deer hunter's record card which shall be completed and returned together with the left lower jaw of deer taken pursuant to this permit, to the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service within fourteen days after the expiration of the permit.

Signature of authorized officer

*S.M. Conway*  
S.M. CONWAY

18/4/86  
date





PERMIT TO TAKE FAUNA

Date: 16th September 1980 Brisbane H.O.

This is to authorise CLARK JAMES M'GHIE (hereinafter called "an authorised collector") to take the fauna listed in the Schedule on back, subject to the following provisions, conditions and restrictions:—

1. This permit shall be used only for taking fauna for Red Deer Farming
2. The fauna taken under this permit remains the property of the Crown and under the control of the Fauna Authority.
3. This permit expires on 30th November 1980 unless revoked or suspended. An application for a renewal of this permit shall be made one month before the expiry date.
4. When using this permit in any part of Queensland, an authorised collector is required to notify the nearest Police Officer or Queensland Department of Primary Industries officer that fauna is being taken in the district.
5. An authorised collector shall carry this permit when taking fauna.
6. This permit authorises the taking of fauna only within Queensland, and unless expressly provided does not authorise the taking of fauna in any sanctuary, refuge or reserve, nor does it authorise entry into land without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupier or authority controlling such land.
7. An authorised collector is required to use the permit with discretion, and to take only such fauna as is authorised, and avoid unnecessary taking within the limits of this permit.
8. An authorised collector is at all times to be considerate of public opinion in the district in which the fauna is being taken.
9. An authorised collector is required to conduct all his fauna activities in conformity with this Act.
10. Holotypes of new forms are to be deposited with the Queensland Museum, Brisbane.
11. This permit authorises the removal of the fauna from the place of taking to the following place in Queensland:—  
Langley Manumber Rd  
Nanango
12. Before the removal of fauna from Queensland to a place outside Queensland, application for such removal shall be made in Form 22, indicating the numbers of each species taken.
13. This permit is issued to an authorised collector subject to the following additional conditions and restrictions on back hereof.

R 19748 #20  
- 1 to

Signed:

C. Roff

Twenty (20) Red Deer (Cervus elaphus)

- 1a. Capture, fencing, keeping and other husbandry skills to be subject to the approval of the Director or Chief Management Officer (Wildlife) or Ranger (Wildlife).
2. Deer to be taken only from the properties of a landholder who has given written permission to the National Parks and Wildlife Service allowing such trapping on such property.
3. Permit holders wishing to use a helicopter in the taking of Deer must notify neighbouring landholders, district forest officer and the Department of Primary Industries Stock Inspector.
4. Trapping is only permitted between the 1st April and the 30th November, 1980.
5. This permit allows the movement of trapped Deer from the point of legal capture to the authorised place of keeping within Queensland.
6. The maximum number of trap sites per permit is five, unless operative prior to 31/12/79.
7. Traps must display a registration disc (when available).
8. Non re-useable ear tags to be attached to captured deer (when available)
9. The sex ratio of trapped deer is to be four or more hinds (♀) to one stag (♂).
10. A register of trapped deer is to be kept by the deer farmer (to be supplied)
11. Royalty on captured deer is payable at \$50-00 per animal.

**Additional Terms, Conditions and Restrictions**

1. Within thirty days of the expiration of this permit a report on the numbers, species and localities of fauna taken to be submitted to the Conservator of Fauna.







*Handwritten signature*

## Permit to take fauna for farming

Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1984 Section 53(4)  
Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985 (Regulation 13)

This is to authorize Daisy Grace HUNT (hereinafter called 'the authorized collector'),  
Name  
to take the fauna listed in the schedule below, subject to the following provisions, conditions and restrictions

1. This permit shall be used only for taking fauna for Deer Farming Purposes
2. The fauna taken under this permit remains the property of the Crown and under the control of the Fauna Authority.
3. This permit expires on 30/9/1987 unless revoked or suspended. An application for a renewal of this permit shall be made one month before the expiry date. (if applicable)
4. When using this permit in any part of Queensland, the authorized collector is required to notify the nearest fauna officer or other officer authorized by the Conservator in that behalf.
5. The authorized collector shall carry this permit when taking fauna.
6. This permit authorizes the taking of fauna only within Queensland, and unless expressly provides does not authorize the taking of fauna in any sanctuary, refuge or reserve, nor does it authorize entry into land without first obtaining permission from the owner, occupier or authority controlling such land.
7. The authorized collector is required to use the permit with discretion and to take only such fauna as is authorized and to avoid unnecessary taking within the limits of this permit.
8. The authorized collector is at all times to be considerate of public opinion in the district in which the fauna is being taken.
9. The authorized collector is required to conduct all of his fauna activities in conformity with this Act.
10. This permit authorizes the taking of the fauna on the following place in Queensland

Property name	Portion number	Parish	Shire
<u>Peenam</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Gullagowan</u>	<u>Kilkivan</u>

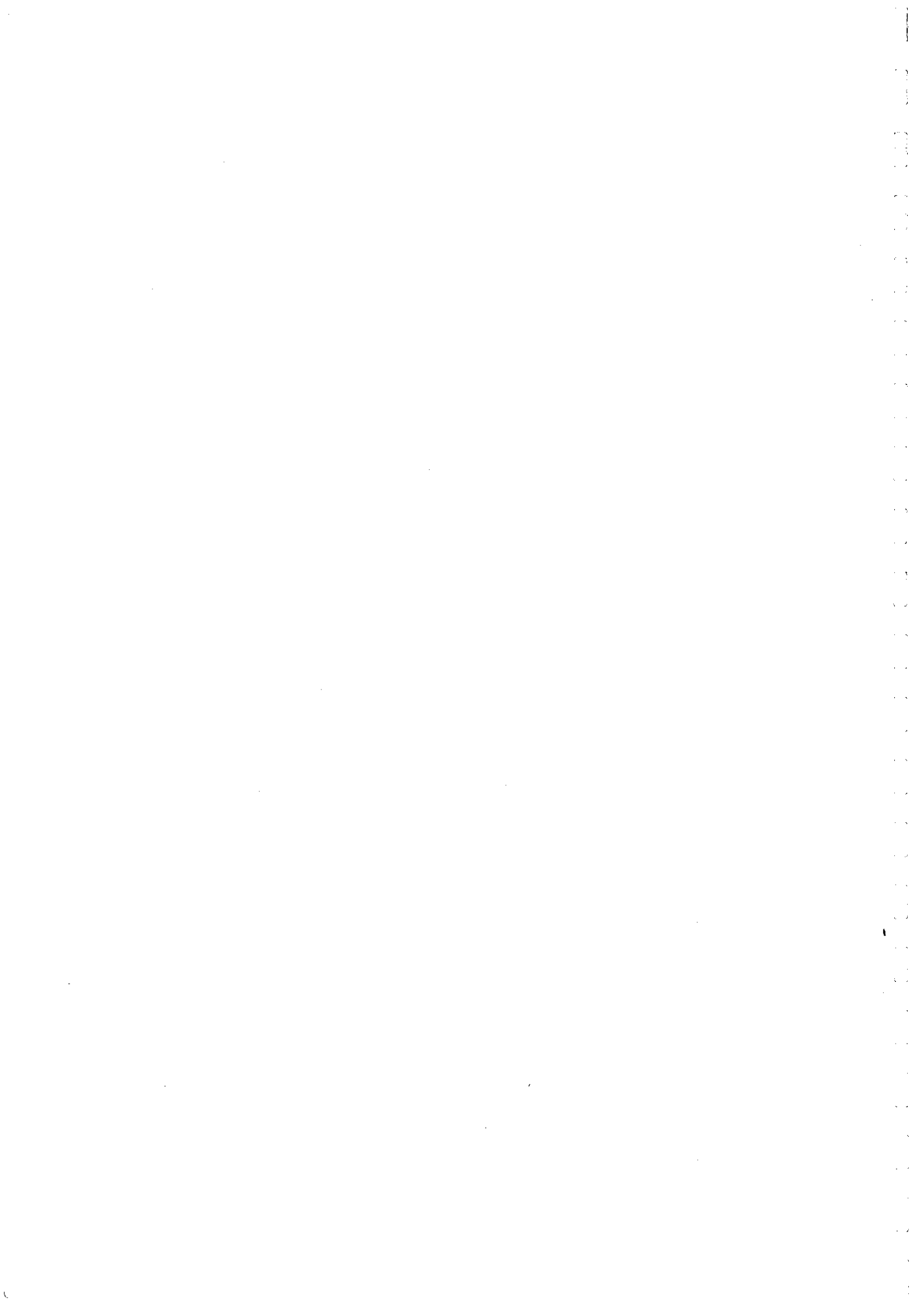
11. This permit authorizes the removal of the fauna from the place of taking to the following place in Queensland  
Langleigh Deer Farm Por 52 Parish Gullagowan Shire Kilkivan
12. Before the removal of fauna from Queensland to a place outside Queensland, application for such removal shall be made in Form 26 of these regulations, indicating the numbers of each species taken.  
*provided necessary road and fauna permits are obtained*
13. This permit is issued to the authorized collector subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

Schedule Common name	Scientific name
<u>Red Deer (Fifteen Only)</u>	<u>Cervus elphus</u>

Additional terms, conditions or restrictions: (a) Within 14 days (fourteen) as from the end of each month during the valid period of this permit, a fully completed declaration of deer taken and royalty due is to be submitted as required  
(b) The use of a helicopter is approved provided all neighbouring land holders are notified prior to each operation of this aircraft

14. ~~Within thirty days of the expiration of this permit the authorized collector shall submit a report on the numbers, species and localities in which fauna were taken to the Conservator.~~

Signature of authorized officer: [Signature] date: 08/05/87











### Permit for fauna to be made farm deer

Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985 (Section 53A)  
Fauna Conservation Regulations 1985 (Regulation 15A)

Name Clark James & Deborah Anne McGHIE  
of "Wangley"  
address Via NANANGO Q 4315-

is hereby authorized to make the fauna listed in the schedule below farm deer in accordance with section 13 of the Deer Farming Act 1985, subject to the following terms, conditions and restrictions.

1. This permit expires on 05-02-88 date unless revoked.
2. This permit is not transferable.
3. The fauna listed in the schedule below remains fauna until the prescribed earmark is made in accordance with section 13 of the Deer Farming Act 1985.
4. Additional terms, conditions and restrictions

**Schedule**

Number	Species
<u>Ten (10)</u>	<u>Red deer - Cervus elaphus</u>
<u>Two (2)</u>	<u>Red deer x Elk Hybrids</u>

Dated at Mozzill this 5th day of January 1988  
Signature of authorised officer [Signature] date 05-01-88







**FAUNA CONSERVATION ACT 1974-1990****FAUNA CONSERVATION REGULATIONS 1989 (as amended)****INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS -****TAKING OF DEER FOR FARMING PURPOSES IN 1991****A. Taking deer for farming purposes**

1. Application for an Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) to trap deer is to be made in Form 2 of the First Schedule of the Fauna Conservation Regulations 1989 (as amended). (Application fee - \$87).
2. Deer may only be taken by a ground trap at a designated site.
3.
  - (a) A person wishing to trap deer is required to supply full details of the property, including portion numbers, parish and shire on which the trap is being located.
  - (b) The location of each trap is to be marked on an attached map.
  - (c) The written permission of the property owner shall be provided if a person wishes to trap deer on another persons' property.
  - (d) The maximum number of trap sites per permit may be limited by the Director and trap sites will be subject to inspections as required.
  - (e) Provision will be made for a trap to be re-sited if found unsuccessful. The permittee may apply in writing to the Director for permission to relocate such traps.
4. The 1991 Open Season for red and fallow deer commences on 16 March 1991, and the Open Season for chital deer commenced on 1 January 1991.

Season closing dates are:

Red and fallow deer - 28 September 1991;  
Chital deer - 31 December 1991.

5. A condition of the Open Season Fauna Permit (Taking for Sale) will require the permittee to supply a monthly return detailing the numbers and species of deer taken each month throughout the operative period of the permit.

Monthly returns are to be forwarded to the Area Manager at the office where the permit was issued no later than 14 days after the last day of each month. If no deer are trapped, a single 'NIL' return may be forwarded at the end of the trapping season in lieu of monthly 'NIL' returns.

6. Royalty at the prescribed rate of \$50 per head is payable each month on deer taken.

7. The maximum number of deer that will be allowed to be trapped on any one permit shall be:
- Red and fallow deer - 30,  
Chital deer - 100.
8. The use of a helicopter for the purpose of taking deer, whether by mustering or by a helicopter mounted net gun, is prohibited.
9. A permit application form together with the prescribed fee should be forwarded to the nearest Wildlife Ranger at one of the following addresses:

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
PO Box 42  
KENMORE Qld 4069

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
PO Box 5391  
TOWNSVILLE MAIL CENTRE  
Qld, 4810

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
PO Box 101  
MARYBOROUGH Qld 4650

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
Bruce Highway, Monkland  
GYMPIE, Qld 4570

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
PO Box 7054  
TOOWOOMBA MAIL CENTRE Qld 4352

Queensland National Parks &  
Wildlife Service  
c/- Hermitage  
Via WARWICK, Qld 4370

**Note: Permits will be available from these centres only.**

**B. Permit for fauna to be made farm deer**

The Deer Farming Act 1985 - 1989 was proclaimed on 1 October 1985 for the purpose of transferring the control of deer farming to the Department of Primary Industries.

The provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1990 continue to be applicable until such time as the fauna are made 'farm deer'. This applies to deer which are taken from the wild or which belong to established herds which have not already been made farm deer.

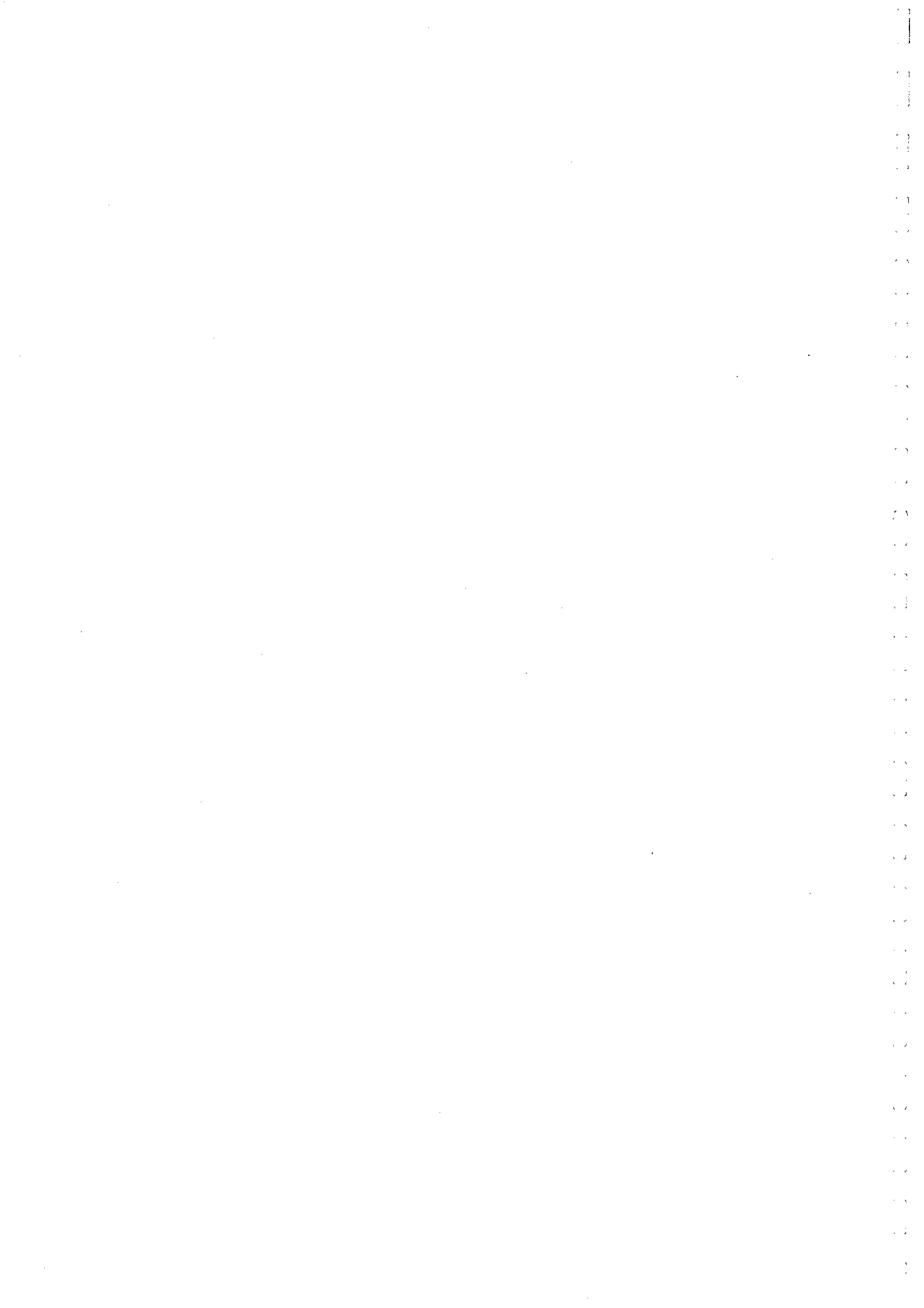
The following procedure must be adopted to have deer made 'farm deer'. This applies to deer taken from the wild and deer which have not already been made 'farm deer'.

1. Any person keeping deer is required to make application for a Permit for Fauna to be made Farm Deer (Section 53A of this Act) in Form 32 of the First Schedule of the Fauna Conservation Regulations 1989 (as amended). (Application fee - \$17).
2. Provided the Director is satisfied that all Royalty due and payable relating to these deer has been paid and these deer are lawfully held by the applicant, a permit under Section 53A of this Act may be issued.
3. Having obtained a permit under Section 53A of this Act, the applicant may then make application to the Chief Inspector of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries for permission to make these deer, which are fauna, farm deer.

**C. Movement of deer**

The provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1990 relating to any movement apply only to fauna and not to 'farm deer' as defined under the Deer Farming Act 1985-1989.

1. 'Farm deer' must be moved under stock permits from the Department of Primary Industries.
2. Where it is intended to move deer which are not 'farm deer' to any place within Queensland, application for a permit authorizing such movement must be made in Form 22 of the First Schedule of the Fauna Conservation Regulations 1989 (as amended). A Permit to Remove Fauna may be obtained from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service and stock permits from the Department of Primary Industries.
3. A Permit to Send or Bring Fauna into Queensland is required from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service when importing any red, fallow chital or rusa deer (other than those which have been made 'farm deer') into Queensland.







DEPARTMENT  
OF LANDS

DATE: 25 June 1992 MS:BJR  
TO: Director, Land Protection Branch  
FROM: Max Smith, Land Protection Branch  
SUBJECT: DEER FARMING & FERAL DEER - LEGISLATIVE CHANGES AND CONSEQUENCES

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### Introduction

Deer farming in Australia is a relatively new industry having been in operation for just over 15 years. In New Zealand, farming of deer had proved successful, and following economic problems in the cattle industry in the mid 1970's in Australia, deer farming appeared to be an attractive diversification. The publication of the book "Gold on Four Feet" created a boom in the industry in 1978/79.

Of the few deer held in captivity here, most were in zoological collections. Following the sudden demand for deer stock, trapping of feral populations was carried out, although never in the numbers possible in New Zealand. Initially the scarcity of deer in Australia resulted in a high value of breeding stock, although as more farm-bred animals have become available prices have tumbled to 10% of what farmers were prepared to pay in the industry's infancy.

Farming of deer is predominately aimed at supplying venison for the luxury meat trade, however antler velvet, used as a medicine in Asia, is a significant by-product.

### Feral Deer

Approximately 17 species or sub-species of deer have been recorded as being introduced into Australia, mainly during the nineteenth century. Of these, only six species are known to survive in the wild - Fallow, Red, Rusa, Sambar, Chital, and Hog deer. Of these species, Hog and Sambar deer are not present in Queensland.

The feral range of the deer species present in the State is illustrated in attachments 1 and 2.

Recent estimates of feral populations in Queensland are as follows:-

Red Deer - Estimated at between 7,000 to 8,000 in number and are common within their range in refuge areas such as State Forests where the Queensland Forest Service intend to continue the prohibition on hunting and trapping.

Fallow Deer - A population of about 3,000 exist particularly in previously protected areas such as Sundown National Park.

Chital Deer -

The most abundant species of deer with estimates of about 10,000 animals in the "Maryvale" are "Niall" area, north-west of Charters Towers. The species finds refuge within "Maryvale Fauna Sanctuary" where it is quite common. Whilst this property is privately owned, the current owners who are descendants of the original importers of this species, seem intent on ensuring the continued protection of these animals.

Rusa Deer -

Population size has been reported as about 1,000 in number. The particular individuals of this species on Prince of Wales Island are regarded by the "trade" (both hunters and trappers) as being "very poor types", no doubt caused by many generations of in-breeding on an island. The species enjoys a "natural protection" because of the isolation of its range and because the residents of Torres Strait actively discourage any interference with these animals by "outsiders". Thursday Island people regard these deer as their "property" and "take" individuals from time to time for wedding feasts, etc. The species may become a major disease risk should screw-worm fly migrate south of its current range in Papua New Guinea.

Farmed Deer

Of the 6 feral species of deer, only 4 are being farmed to a significant extent - Fallow, Red, Rusa and Chital deer. The four farm species can be separated into two groups on the basis of their origins. Fallow and Red deer are temperate species, whereas Rusa and Chital deer are from tropical regions.

Deer are also farmed for the purpose of providing wealthy overseas hunters with the opportunity to hunt Red, Sambar, Chital and Rusa deer. Mr Webster, the proprietor of Kingham Hunting Preserve, Kilcoy has contacted this office in the past in regard to his desire to add Hog deer as trophy animals, which at the present time can only be hunted in Victoria.

Fallow deer are the most numerous and widely farmed deer in Australia. Red deer are the most sought after animals, but are few in number outside Queensland where a wild population is trapped in the valleys of the Brisbane and Mary Rivers. Rusa deer, which are trapped in New South Wales but mostly farmed in Victoria, are proving the most suitable deer for farming. Chital deer are farmed mainly in New South Wales from breeding stock trapped near Charters Towers, Queensland.

### Animal Health

Even though deer are susceptible to the same diseases as other domestic animals, they are remarkably free from infectious diseases. Deer in the wild are hardy, adaptable creatures which utilise a number of strategies to cope with environmental and nutritional stress, including selection of a wide range of forages and when necessary, migration from one feeding area to another.

### Deer Farming Act - Queensland

The Deer Farming Act 1985 came into force on October 1, 1985, initially with controls over four species of deer; Red deer found in the Brisbane/May Valley area, Fallow deer west of Stanthorpe, Chital deer on four properties north-west of Charters Towers, and Rusa deer mainly on Prince of Wales Island, Torres Strait. Two other species, Sambar and Wapiti deer were included under the Act sometime later.

The Department of Primary Industries had concerns about the species' ability to cause damage in the wild, and in a memorandum dated 30 September 1985 advised all officers of the Veterinary Services Branch that "due to the environmental damage which could be caused by the uncontrolled spread of deer outside their present feral range, it has been agreed that this Department will undertake the responsibility for regulation of farm deer".

Feral deer remained under the control of National Parks and Wildlife Service who continued to administer the legislation concerning their hunting and trapping, and maintain supervision of deer parks.

### Deer Farms

Criteria for a Deer farm site outside feral areas:-

1. The land is south of the 17th parallel.
2. The property is in an intensively farmed area.
3. The property is not adjacent to Bushland State Forest or National Park areas.
4. The property could be easily fenced with a high security boundary fence.
5. The property is not in a land slip or flood prone area.

The criteria is mainly aimed at preventing the escape of deer with the establishment of further feral deer populations.

At the present time 143 registered deer farms with an estimated total of about 14,000 deer, are in operation in Queensland. The DPI now admits that many of the statutory requirements imposed in the original legislation were found to be excessive.

DPI intended to undertake a comprehensive review of deer farming legislation in 1994/95, at which time the necessity to maintain any regulation over the deer industry would be examined. However, under the provisions of the Nature Conservation Bill proposed by the Department of Environment and Heritage, it is intended to relinquish the Crown's property rights to deer and their associated protected status. It is anticipated that the Nature Conservation Bill will be proclaimed in September/October 1992.

Until such time as the Bill is proclaimed, deer are a protected species within the feral range, whilst outside the feral range, deer are regarded as pest which can be destroyed.

This decision to rescind the protected status of deer will relieve DPI of the necessity to maintain specific Deer Farming Legislation in its current format. The Department feels that with no Crown Property rights deer can be treated as a normal commercial animal, the ownership of which is the individuals concern.

DPI recognises that the establishment of additional feral colonies could result through mismanagement if the deer industry is deregulated and recommends that the principles of selected restrictions or prohibitions upon deer farming and movements into and within ecologically sensitive and 'other sites' be incorporated into the Stock Act 1915.

#### Rural Lands Protection Act

Should controls over domestic and feral deer be relinquished, provision exists under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 for animals to be assigned to one or more categories according to measures that need to be taken in order to protect primary industries and the resources related to primary industries.

Two options are available:

##### Option 1

Include farmed deer species in Table A, Categories A4, A6 animals, as mammals which can be kept under special circumstances (ie. farming purposes).

Feral deer would automatically be included in Table E, Categories A1, A2, A3 as animals which must be controlled.

##### Option 2

Include feral deer in Table B Categories A2, A4, A6 animals, as mammals which are feral or become feral from time to time (eg. goats and horses).

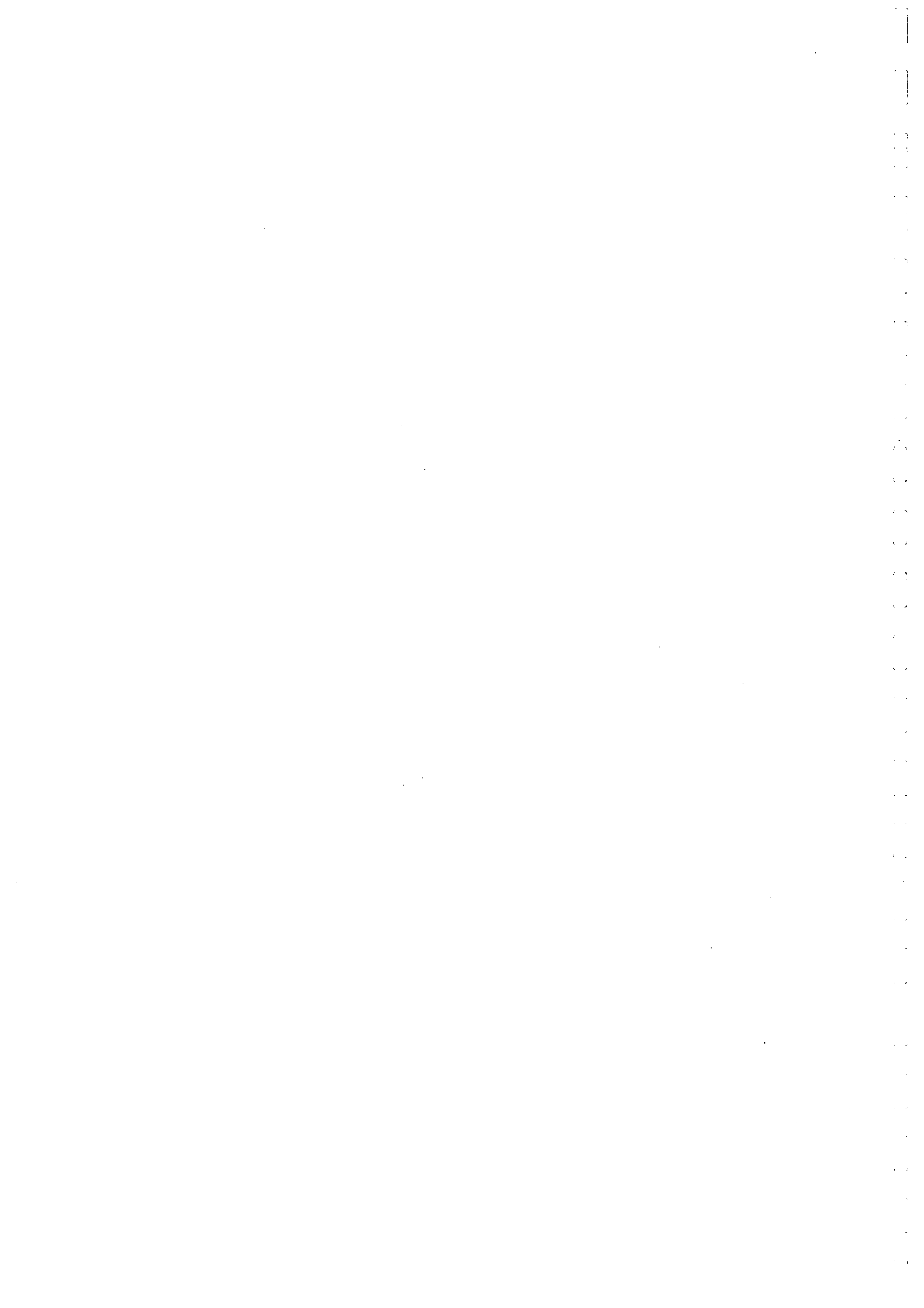
Recommendation

If the Branch agrees with the reasons behind DPI's recommendation to deregulate deer farming, option 2 is preferred. Under this table, domestic deer could possibly be included in the list of exempt animal species such as cattle, horses and goats.

Option 1 would require the issue of permits and would be contrary to DPI's recommendation that deer be regarded in the same context as other commercial animals, and that little justification exists for movement controls and farm licensing systems except for specific areas.

It is further recommended that officers of this branch regularly liaise with officers of both DPI and the Department of Environment and Heritage to monitor progress on proposed amendments, and if possible participate in discussions relating to further issues to be resolved such as controls over deer farming in sensitive areas and inclusion of deer under the Stock Act 1915.

MJ Smith  
Development Section  
Land Protection Branch





Telephone 227 7111  
Telex 41620  
Telegraphic Address:  
"Oldprimind"

# Department of Primary Industries

COMALCO HOUSE  
CNR. GEORGE AND ANN STREETS  
BRISBANE.

Please address all correspondence to—  
Director-General  
Dept. of Primary Industries  
G.P.O. Box 46  
Brisbane. Q. 4001

In any further correspondence  
refer to No.

## CIRCULAR TO DEER FARMERS

From 1st October, 1985 all deer farms in Queensland will be required to be licensed under the provisions of the Deer Farming Act 1985 administered by the Department of Primary Industries.

By definition "farming" means the depasturing or raising of deer for their sale or slaughter or the harvesting of velvet or other deer products, as the predominant purpose thereof.

Deer parks open for public exhibition will remain under the control and supervision of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

### FERAL AREAS

For the purposes of the Act feral areas for the four species of deer found in the State have been declared, viz., Red Deer Feral Area, Fallow Deer Feral Area, Chital Deer Feral Area and Rusa Deer Feral Area.

### DEER FARMING LICENCES

An application for a licence is to be made to the Chief Inspector of Stock, Department of Primary Industries, through your local stock inspector and is to be accompanied by a fee of \$15.

There are three classes of annual licence:-

- (a) feral area - for farms where deer are kept within the declared feral area for their species.
- (b) non-feral area - for farms where deer are kept outside of the declared feral area for their species.
- (c) combined - for farms keeping deer within their declared feral area plus deer of any other of the prescribed species.

Licences expire on the 30th June in each year and an application for renewal is to be made not less than 28 days prior to that date.

### EARMARKING OF DEER

To legally differentiate farm deer from feral deer the Act provides for the ear-marking of farm deer with a circular hole not less than 8 mm nor more than 12 mm in diameter in the left ear.

A person in possession of deer on a farm as at 1st October, 1985, which deer are the property of the Crown under the provisions of the Fauna Conservation Act, may apply to the Chief Inspector for a permit to earmark the deer within three months of that date, for the purpose of making them farm deer.

The permit will remain valid for one month from the date of issue.

Subsequently, any feral deer taken under the Fauna Conservation Act and on which royalty has been paid, and any deer of more than three months of age which have been born on the farm, are to be earmarked in the left ear.

Only earmarking pliers of a type approved by the Chief Inspector may be used.

#### IDENTIFICATION OF FARM DEER

Where farm deer are kept under a non-feral area deer farming licence, they must be permanently identified by an ear tag bearing the registered property number of the farm. This ear tag is to be placed in the left ear and the official earmark hole may be used for this purpose.

Ear tags used for farm management purposes are to be placed in the right ear.

Property owners who have not been allocated an identification number under the provisions of the Identification of Stock Regulations, should apply immediately to their local stock inspector for registration of their holding.

#### PERMITS TO MOVE

A permit under the Deer Farming Act is required when farm deer are to be travelled outside of their feral area for whatever purpose, to sale, slaughter, display at agricultural shows, etc. It will be valid for a maximum period of 30 days.

The deer are also required to be identified by means of the property number ear tag.

No permit or identification is required for movement of farm deer between properties within the feral area for their species.

It should be noted that while there is no longer a requirement to obtain a "Permit to Remove Fauna" from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, with the handing over of control of farm deer to the Department of Primary Industries, it will still be necessary to obtain a "Permit to Travel Stock" from the nearest stock inspector for any movement of deer, both within and outside a feral area.

#### FARM REGISTERS

It will also be necessary for a deer farm licence holder to keep and maintain a farm register containing the following particulars:-

- (a) number and sex of each species of farm deer on the licensed deer farm;



- (b) number, sex, species and identification of deer taken in accordance with a permit issued under section 53 of the Fauna Conservation Act 1974-1985 and the date of introduction of the deer to the licensed deer farm;
- (c) number, sex, species, identification and date of birth of farm deer born on the licensed deer farm;
- (d) number, sex, species, identification and date of death of farm deer which died on the licensed deer farm;
- (e) number, sex, species, date of introduction to the licensed deer farm of farm deer purchased or acquired by him; and
- (f) number, sex, species, identification and date of sale or disposal of farm deer sold or disposed of by him.

#### FENCING REQUIREMENTS

The following is an extract from the Deer Farming Regulations 1985. It should be noted the provisions relate only to a non-feral area or a combined deer farming licence. There are no fencing requirements for farm deer kept in their feral area.

"19. prescribed fencing. (1) For the purposes of subsection 19(1) of the Act the prescribed fencing to be erected and maintained by the holder of a non-feral area deer farming licence and the holder of a combined deer farming licence shall be as specified in subregulation (2).

(2) A. In respect of a fence erected subsequent to the commencement of these regulations, the area of a licensed deer farm or that part of a licensed deer farm on which deer are farmed, shall be enclosed by a perimeter fence which shall:-

(a) be constructed -

(i) to a minimum height of 2.13 metres, provided that where in the opinion of the Chief Inspector the jumping ability of the species of deer farmed or the conditions of confinement require that a specified section or sections of such perimeter fence be of greater height, the minimum height of such section or sections shall be 2.45 metres;

(ii) of -

(A) line posts of pressure treated pine, hardwood, metal or such other material of adequate strength and durability approved by the Chief Inspector, which line posts shall be placed at a minimum depth of 760 mm in the ground and at a maximum spacing of 9 metres between line posts;

(B) of strainer posts of pressure treated pine or hardwood of a minimum diameter size of 200 mm or of metal or such other material of adequate size, strength and durability approved by the Chief Inspector, which strainer posts shall be placed at a minimum depth of 900 mm in the ground; and

(C) of chain mesh, welded mesh or such other wire of adequate strength approved by the Chief Inspector, which mesh or other wire shall be properly strained and affixed to the line posts; and

- (iii) in such a manner as shall prevent the movement of deer out of the licensed deer farm;
- (b) incorporate sufficient gates for the efficient operation of licensed deer farm, which gates shall be -
  - (i) constructed to the same height, of the same or similar material and in the same manner as that specified in paragraph (a); and
  - (ii) in the case of gates used for the ingress and egress of farm deer, no less than 2.45 metres in width; and
- (c) be kept sufficiently clear of trees as shall prevent damage being caused to it by falling trees or falling branches of trees.

B. In respect of a fence in existence at the date of commencement of these regulations, the area of a licensed deer farm or that part of a licensed deer farm on which deer are farmed, shall be enclosed by a perimeter fence including gates, the height and construction of which is in the opinion of the Chief Inspector adequate to prevent the movement of deer out of the licensed deer farm."

#### INSPECTION FACILITIES

A deer farm licence holder is to provide and maintain in good order, facilities, including a crush or race, which will enable deer to be effectively and safely inspected.

#### ESCAPED FARM DEER

The owner or person in charge of farm deer which escape from confinement in a non-feral area for their species, shall immediately on becoming aware of the escape notify the nearest inspector or the Chief Inspector and take all the necessary steps required to recapture the deer.

#### CONFINEMENT OF CAPTURED DEER

Feral deer taken in accordance with a permit issued under the Fauna Conservation Act are to be confined in a licensed deer farm within the feral area in which they are taken for a period of at least six months before removal from that area.

However, provision has been made to allow feral deer, immediately on being taken, to be removed to a non-feral area licensed farm, but in this event the deer cannot again be removed from that particular farm for a period of six months from the date of introduction.

Further details of the requirements of the Deer Farming Act are obtainable from your local stock inspector or the Chief Inspector of Stock, Department of Primary Industries, GPO Box 46, Brisbane, 4001.

Application forms for deer farming licences, movement permits and for permission to earmark established herds may also be obtained from the local stock office.

## Deer Farming Regulations 1985

### Explanatory Notes

#### MACHINERY/FORMS/FEEES

Regulations 1 to 6. Regulations of a machinery nature.

#### APPLICATION/PERMIT TO EARMARK ESTABLISHED HERDS

Regulations 7 and 8. These regulations and relevant forms relate to section 14 of the Deer Farming Act which provides for an application for a permit to earmark established herds to be made within three months of the commencement of the Act.

#### PRESCRIBED EARMARK

Regulation 9. Prescribes that the shape and size of the earmark to distinguish farm deer from feral deer shall be a circular hole made wholly within the left ear, not less than 8 mm nor more than 12 mm in diameter.

#### SHORT TERM DISPLACED FARM DEER PERMIT

Regulation 10 to 13. These regulations and relevant forms provide for the issue by an inspector of a short term permit (not more than 30 days) to allow for the movement of farm deer outside their feral area on a temporary basis, such as to slaughter or for display purposes at agricultural shows. A condition of issue is that at all times the deer will be confined in escape proof vehicles or escape proof enclosures and be identified with a registered property number ear tag.

#### LONG TERM DISPLACED FARM DEER PERMIT

Regulations 14 to 17. These regulations and relevant forms provide for the issue by the Chief Inspector of an annual long term permit for the keeping of companion deer, i.e., deer kept for the owner's personal enjoyment rather than for commercial purposes. The permit is only necessary where companion deer are to be kept outside of their feral area and is to be renewed annually for a fee of \$15.

The conditions of issue provide that the property is to be fenced to the same standard as that applicable to non-feral area licensed deer farms, the deer are to be permanently identified by the attachment of an ear tag bearing the number of the holding on which they are kept as registered under the provisions of the Identification of Stock Regulations, and only five female deer may be kept at any time.

The restriction of the number of deer is based on the fact that the properties on which companion deer are to be kept will generally be small and in urban rather than rural areas.

The keeping of male deer is prohibited in these urban situations as they are dangerous animals particularly in the breeding season.

Should an owner wish to undertake farming activities at a later stage and the property is considered suitable, it will be possible for a non-feral deer farming licence to be issued in lieu of a long term permit.

#### ORDER TO DISPOSE OF DISPLACED FARM DEER

Regulation 18. This regulation and form relate to section 17 of the Act which provides for an inspector to order the owner of displaced farm deer, i.e., deer which have escaped or have been released in a non-feral area for its species, or are on a holding in a non-feral area not licensed for the species of deer involved, to be sold, destroyed or otherwise disposed of, should the owner fail to remedy the situation.

However the authority of the Minister is required before an order can be issued.

#### FENCING REQUIREMENTS IN NON-FERAL AREAS

Regulations 19 and 20. These regulations apply to holders of non-feral area licences. The standard required of fencing erected following the commencement of the regulations is that which has been in force for some time, as agreed to by the Queensland Deer Breeders' Association and the National Parks and Wildlife Service under whose jurisdiction deer farming has been until now.

Where fencing in existence at the commencement of the regulations is of a lesser standing than that prescribed, provision has been made for the Chief Inspector to approve such fence where, in his opinion, the height and type of construction is adequate to contain the particular species of deer involved.

This will obviate the need for farmers of long standing to increase the height of their fences by perhaps only a few centimetres, to meet the present requirements.

#### ORDER TO MAINTAIN FACILITIES

Regulation 21. This regulation and form relate to section 29 of the Act which provides for an inspector to order a licensee to erect and maintain facilities such as a crush or race which will enable the effective and safe inspection of farm deer.

However Ministerial authorisation is required before an order is made.

#### CONFINEMENT OF CAPTURED FARM DEER

Regulation 22. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure the domestication of feral deer taken from the wild, by requiring they be kept in confinement for at least six months from the date of capture before being removed from the property.

## LICENSING OF FARM DEER

Regulations 23 to 26. These regulations and forms provide for the issue, annual renewal or transfer of three types of deer farming licences, i.e., feral area, non-feral area or combined licence, by the Chief Inspector.

An annual renewal fee of \$15 has been prescribed.

## IDENTIFICATION

Regulation 27. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure that deer on a farm outside of the feral area for its species are permanently identified by means of an ear tag bearing the registered number of the property on which they are kept.

This is necessary so that, in the event of an escape and subsequent recapture, the ownership of the deer can be readily traced back to the licensee of the deer farm.

## RECORDS TO BE KEPT

Regulation 28. This regulation prescribes in detail the particulars of deer numbers to be recorded in a farm register by a licensee.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

Regulations 29 and 30. Regulations of a machinery nature.





Department of  
Environment and Heritage



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

160 Ann Street • Brisbane (Queensland) • PO Box 155 • North Quay Qld 4002

Telephone (07) 227 2111 • Facsimile (07) 227 7670

Enquiries to

Telephone

Your reference:

Our reference 200180 Pt4

8 July 1991

Mr M. Cause  
State Secretary  
Australian Deer Association  
216 Cedar Grove Road  
M.S.185  
Beaudesert Qld 4285

Dear Mr Cause

Further to my letter of 12 June 1991, I wish to advise that the Honourable Pat Comben, MLA, Minister for Environment and Heritage, has decided to not pursue a proposal to remove deer from the group of animals declared to be "fauna" under the Fauna Conservation Act 1974. Mr Comben has advised that deer will remain protected fauna in this State for the foreseeable future.

I will now not be convening a meeting regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

D.E. Boyland  
Acting Director  
Queensland National Parks  
and Wildlife Service







# MEDIA STATEMENT

Hon. Pat Comben, MLA  
Minister for Environment and Heritage  
19th floor 160 Ann Street, Brisbane  
PO Box 155, NORTH QUAY QLD 4002 · Telephone (07) 227 8819 · Facsimile (07) 221 7082



Tuesday, September 8, 1992

**STATEMENT BY ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE MINISTER PAT COMBEN**

## **NO THREAT TO DEER POPULATIONS OR HERITAGE VALUES: COMBEN**

Excluding deer from the provisions of the Nature Conservation Act will not threaten their survival in Queensland, the Environment and Heritage Minister, Mr Pat Comben, said today.

The Minister said the exclusion would create only two changes – removing the need for hunters to buy permits from the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, and freeing up Service staff to do their real job of managing native wildlife.

"Deer farming will still be encouraged and supported. Zoos will still house deer and hunting, which has gone on since the animal was introduced to Queensland, will still be subject to all the normal animal welfare, firearm, private property, State forest and national park laws," he said.

"Certainly, my Department will not be treating this kindly animal anything like the very destructive feral pig or feral cat."

The Minister was responding to a press release from the National Party Member for Barambah, Mr Trevor Perrett. He said he agreed with Mr Perrett that the deer was a valuable resource and part of Queensland's history.

"But none of this will change under the new Nature Conservation Act."

Mr Comben said deer populations would not be at risk as they were distributed in large numbers throughout south-east Queensland.

"I do not understand how Mr Perrett can justify a Department of Environment spending money on managing the private hunting of a non-native animal.

"Queensland taxpayers fund the Department of Environment to protect and manage our native plants and animals, not to run hunting seasons for introduced animals."

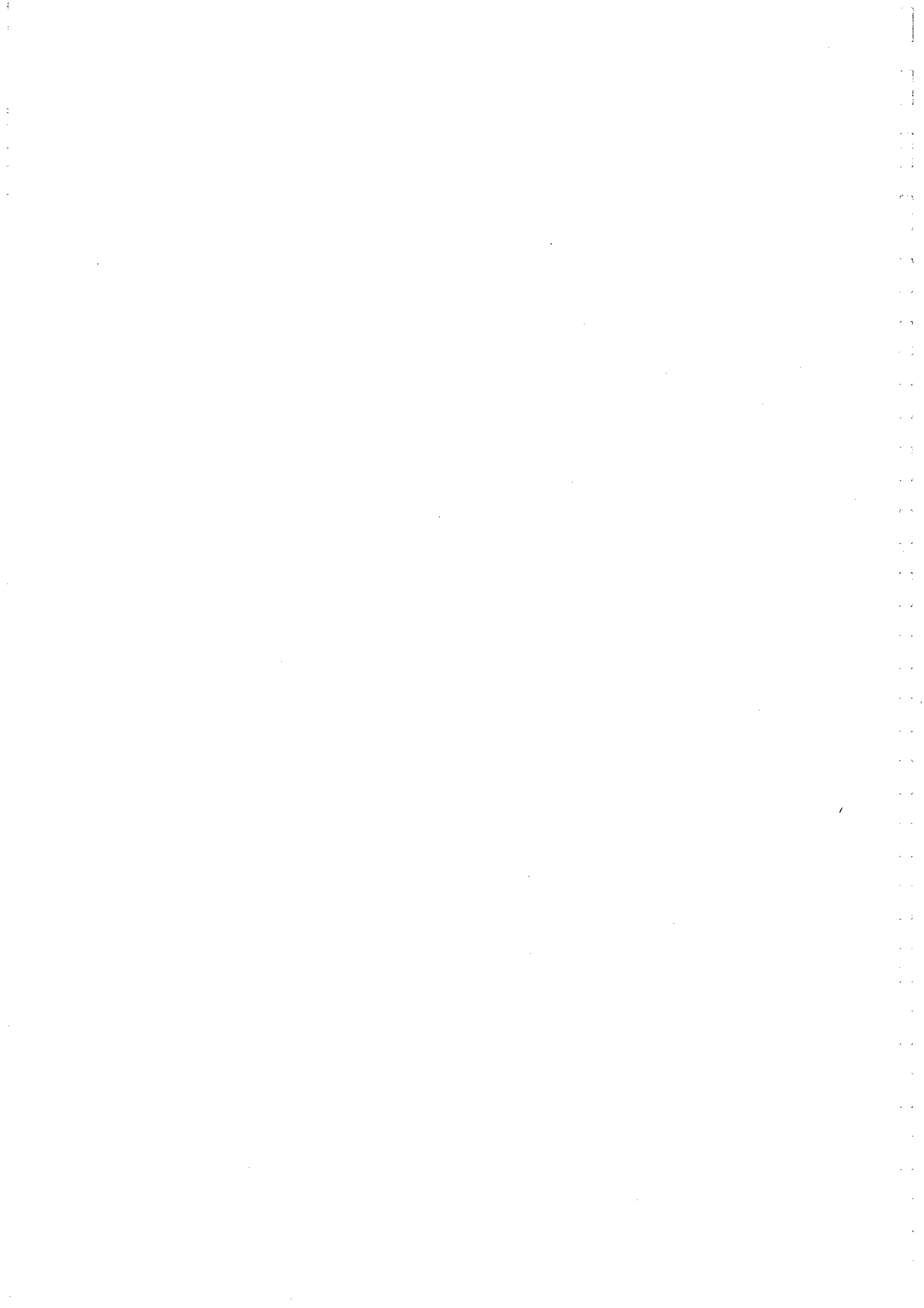
The Minister explained that the Nature Conservation Act, passed by Parliament in May, would soon become effective and it would cover only native wildlife. He said under the old legislation, which was still effective, the deer was the only non-native species on the "protected" list.

"This is an anomaly, however, as inclusion on the list has not stopped deer hunting or farming. It just puts an extra management workload on the QNPWS."

Mr Comben said the deer, a European species, was brought to Queensland last century to celebrate Queen Victoria's 50th anniversary on the throne.

"I think Queenslanders would now prefer my Department to direct its resources to protecting native species," Mr Comben said.

**MEDIA INQUIRIES: ROSLYN MURRAY (W) 07-2278825, (H) 07-3682128**





Department of  
Environment and Heritage



QUEENSLAND  
NATIONAL PARKS  
AND WILDLIFE  
SERVICE

160 Ann Street • Brisbane Queensland • PO Box 155 • North Quay Qld 4002  
Telephone (07) 227 7111 • Facsimile (07) 227 7676

Enquiries to

Telephone

Your reference

Our reference 207279

22 June 1992

Mr C. McGhie  
"Langley"  
MS 1494  
NANANGO QLD 4615

Dear Mr McGhie

I refer to your facsimile correspondence of 15 June 1992 in regard to offences under the *Fauna Conservation Act 1974*.

An offence under the above legislation is committed by any person who takes Protected or Permanently Protected Fauna without authority under the Act. The term "take" is defined in the Act to include shoot, trap, kill, snare, disturb and so on. An offence occurs in the above circumstances the moment that the animal is "taken".

The penalties prescribed under the Act in relation to the taking of Permanently Protected Fauna are more severe than those in respect of Protected Fauna. Four species of deer are currently declared to be Protected Fauna.

On 22 May, 1992, the new *Nature Conservation Act 1992* received the Royal Assent, although the full provisions of the Act will not commence until later this year. It is relevant for you to note that deer will no longer be protected on full implementation of the new legislation as the *Fauna Conservation Act 1974* will at that time be revoked and the *Nature Conservation Act* does not afford protected status to deer.

Even though the above changes will soon be implemented in Queensland with respect to deer, I share your view that there are benefits to be realised from the promotion by responsible hunting organisations of ethical hunting practices.

I wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

Dan Gillespie  
Executive Director  
Division of Conservation





## OFFICE OF THE PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

Executive Building • 100 George Street, • Brisbane, Q. 4000 • Telephone: (07) 224 4500 • Facsimile: (07) 221 1206

- 4 NOV 1992

Mr S D Watson  
PO Box 758  
MAROOCHYDORE QLD 4558



Dear Mr Watson

### Status of Deer

Thank you for your letter concerning the status of deer under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. I have been asked to reply on the Premier's behalf.

The Premier's Cabinet colleague the Honourable Molly Robson MLA, Minister for Environment and Heritage has advised that throughout the debate in relation to deer being afforded "protected" status, she is not aware of any sound ecological or biological reasons having been advanced to vindicate this status as deer are neither indigenous to Australia (or Queensland) nor are they endangered in any sense of the word.

The Minister does not believe that the removal of protected status will result in any unusual pressure on existing populations of deer. Hunting of deer will continue to be prohibited in National Parks and State Forests and hunters will continue to require the permission of landholders to take deer on freehold and leasehold land as is the case at present.

There are no plans for Government agencies to eradicate deer on Crown lands in Queensland.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a Media Statement in relation to this matter which may also be of interest to you.

The Premier trusts this information has clarified the situation for you.

Yours sincerely

John Mickel  
Private Secretary



# KILCOY SHIRE COUNCIL

Address Correspondence To:

The Shire Clerk,  
P.O. Box 83,  
Kilcoy, Qld. 4515

Telephone: (074) 97 1600

Facsimile: (074) 97 1768

*Council Chambers,  
15 Kennedy Street,  
Kilcoy, Qld. 4515*

25 October 1994

The Hon. Molly Robson MLA  
Minister for Environment & Heritage  
PO Box 155  
BRISBANE 4002

Dear Minister

Once again I am writing on behalf of the Kilcoy Council and the deer breeders of this shire. The people who are tied up with the Deer Industry are still on tenterhooks as to the ultimate outcome of Legislation regarding deer.

It is ludicrous in the extreme to say that lifting all protection on deer will have no great impact. The one area which is of great concern is the opening of the flood gates to indiscriminate shooting of deer on private properties, and to say the law of trespass would take care of that area will not hold up, because as a land owner I have had experience at trying to use the act of trespass and the problems encountered in trying to make it stick are frightening.

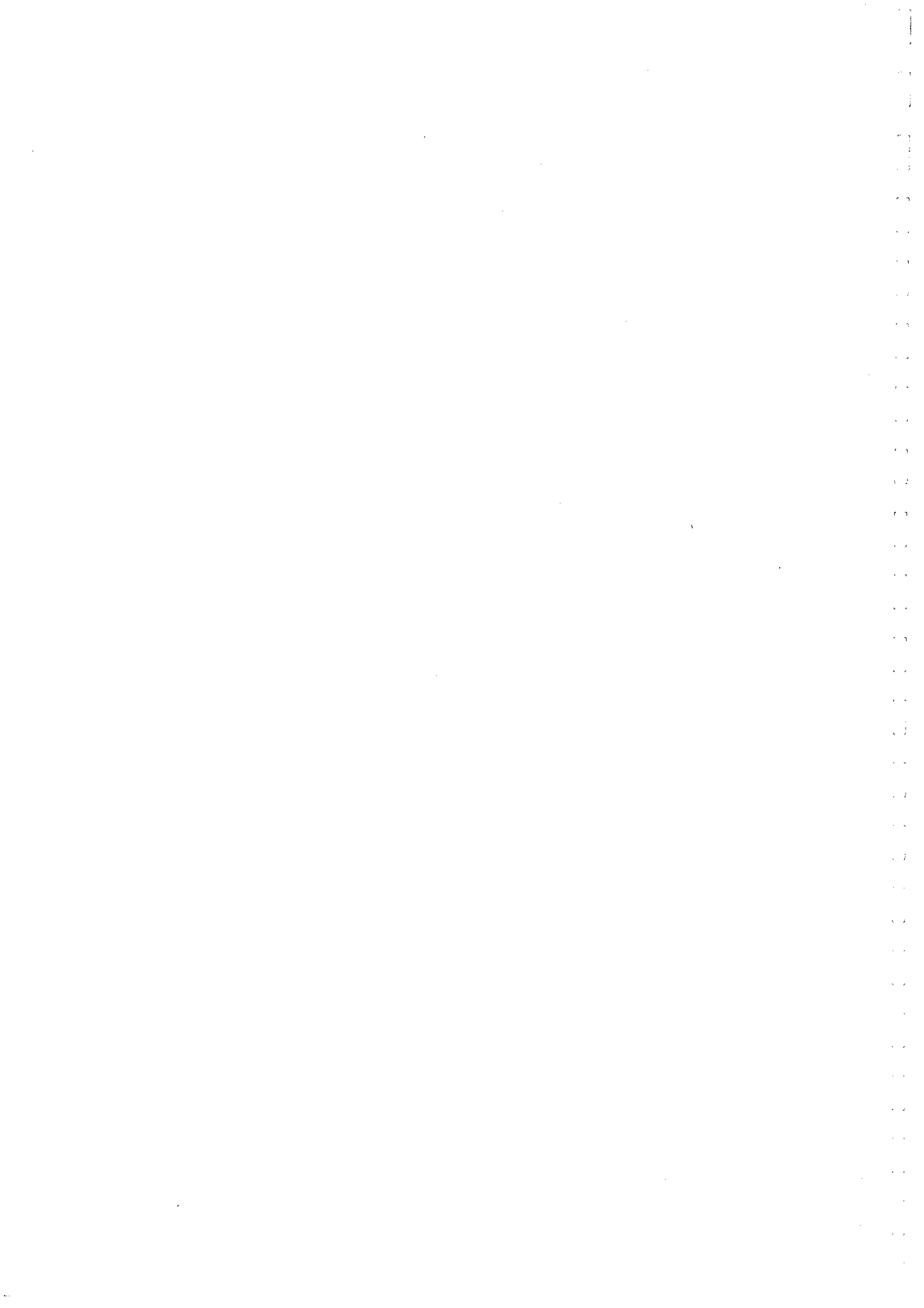
Surely we could take a good hard look at the system operating in Tasmania at present with the blessing of the Hon. John Coeary your counterpart in that state. It is a system that works for the deer breeder, the hunters and the environment.

I hope that common sense will prevail and the final outcome will be acceptable to all parties concerned.

Yours faithfully



(A Brown)  
MAYOR







# KILKIVAN SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
26 BLIGH STREET  
KILKIVAN, QUEENSLAND

Telephone: 074 - 841133  
Facsimile: 074 - 841390

All Correspondence  
to be addressed to :

The Shire Clerk  
P.O. Box 9  
KILKIVAN, QLD. 4600

In Reply Please Quote:  
AJM/a jm/EF

13 January 1994

R.I.D.G.E.  
C/- Mr C. McGhie,  
'Langley Deer Stud',  
MS 1494,  
NANANGO, QLD 4615.

Dear Mr McGhie,

## NATURE CONSERVATION ACT 1993

I refer to the above and advise that Council at its Meeting held 6th January 1994 gave consideration to this matter.

As a result of this Meeting I have been directed to advise that Council supports the R.I.D.G.E. Group in their efforts to reinstate the 'Protected Status' of wild deer under the Nature Conservation Act.

Yours faithfully,

Ray C. Currie  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**



Shane Gittins  
Chairman  
BV-Kilcoy Landcare  
P O Box 82  
Kilcoy, 4515  
Ph: 074-971018  
Fax: 074-971909

The Hon. Molly Robson MLA  
Minister for Environment & Heritage  
P O Box 155  
BRISBANE ALBERT ST QLD 4002

Dear Minister,

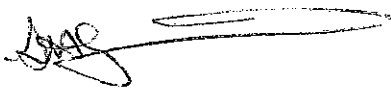
On 8th September 1992 a letter was written by this group to the then Minister for Environment & Heritage, Hon Pat Comben MLA, stating our displeasure at the direction the Government was taking with the status of Queensland's wild deer herds. All arguments put by many Conservationists, Wildlife and Hunting enthusiasts seemed to carry little weight with the Government at the time. No easy solution to the problem seemed to come to the forefront.

It was brought to this group's attention the work being done by the Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee Inc. in that state for the past 2 years. The general aim of the group seems to be-" To develop a practical, strategic plan for Tasmania's wild fellow deer that most closely meets the needs of the Tasmanian Community." This has the full backing of the Hon. John Clery MLA, Minister for Environment and Land Management in Tasmania.

After reading the group's annual report, they seem to be having tremendous success with the Tasmania wild deer program, property-based game management plans, data collection programs and public awareness and education programs.

We, as a Landcare Group, trying to keep all elements in balance, feel that what is being achieved in Tasmania may have some success in Queensland. It is hoped by our group you will give positive consideration to the program and it's trialing in Queensland.

Kind regards,



Shane Gittins.





# Office of the Mayor

## Maroochy Shire Council

Cnr Bury and Currie Streets, Nambour, Queensland, 4560.  
P.O. Box 76, Nambour, Queensland, 4560.  
Telephone: (074) 41 8242 Fax: (074) 41 8338



Your reference:

Our reference:

RGK:CLM

26 October, 1994

The Hon Molly Robson MLA  
Minister for Environment and Heritage  
PO Box 155  
BRISBANE ALBERT STREET Q 4002

Dear Minister,

I write to express my personal concern at the recent changes in legislation affecting the protection of wild deer in the State and particularly in relation to those areas within the Maroochy Shire in which there are a large number of wild deer living.

I am concerned that the lifting of all protection on deer may have a number of adverse affects.


I am led to believe that efforts to arrive at a better solution are currently under way in the State of Tasmania and appear to be proving fairly successful.

I believe that a proposal is about to be put to your Departmental Advisers on Friday, 28 October, 1994 and a number of very pertinent and responsible statements on the situation will be made.

It would be sincerely appreciated if you would be prepared to look into the situation further in order to arrive at a solution considered more satisfactory by the vast majority, if not all, of our community.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Yours faithfully,

  
CR. BOB KING  
MAYOR





## RIDGE GROUP SUBMISSIONS

Concern over the future of wild deer herds in Queensland has caused a number of interested parties to come together under the banner of the RIDGE Group - Research Into Deer Genetics and Environment. It is hoped by this group to make a sensible contribution to the discussion over the future of wild deer herds in Queensland, in the hope of ensuring sensible management control and preservation of the wild deer. The participants in the group come from such diverse areas of interests as the Queensland Deer Breeders Association, local shire councils, land owners, The Safari Club International (South Pacific Chapter), the Gympie and Mary Valley branch of the Australian Deer Association, business people and private individuals. The emphasis within the RIDGE Group is on sensible and rational discussion and development of practical management procedures for the future.

This group, known as RIDGE was set up to harness the growing number of open minded and constructive deer interest groups and individuals who see the urgent need for a co-operative and far sighted approach to wildlife management in Queensland.

We would like to open a forum for discussion between the Department of Environment and Heritage, Local Government Departments, landowners, wildlife enthusiasts and hunting enthusiasts enabling decisions to be made that will firstly help protect the environment and secondly provide the maximum economic stimulus to landowners so they do precisely that.

This group clearly understands how lack of support for the deer tag and trapping fee system has caused the present day problems with management of wild deer herds, although this does not mean that vast support for both hunting or trapping does not exist. The challenge for us is to find out how these areas can be understood, managed and harnessed.

We feel that, with the support of the Department of Environment and Heritage, we can help to rewrite the "rule book" on management of deer and set in motion sensible and sustainable environmental use practices.

### CURRENTLY

There are substantial wild herds of six deer species established in Australia. Deer are not native to Australia, but have evidently been a part of the ecology of significant tracts of the bush now for well over one hundred years.

There is no doubt the various Acclimatisation Societies of the day introduced the deer for hunting purposes. For example, the red deer introduced into Queensland in 1873 were a gift from Queen Victoria for the purposes of '.. providing additional food and sport..' for the settlers (A.S.Q. 1873).

The following illustrates the deer species, origin, and approximate year of release in Australia.

DEER SPECIES		COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	YEAR OF RELEASE
Sambar	Cervus unicolor	Sri Lanka/India	1863
Red	Cervus elaphus	England/Scotland	1873
Rusa	Cervus timoriensis	Indonesia	1885
Fallow	Dama dama	England	1850
Hog	Axis porcinus	Sri Lanka/India	1866
Chital	Axis axis	India	1886

There are no official figures available for total numbers of recreational deer hunters in Australia. However an enquiry with hunting clubs and organisations, and taxidermy studios reveal estimates of in excess of 2,500 active recreational deer hunters in South East Queensland alone. The areas available to these individuals to follow their past-time are essentially the areas of the upper Brisbane Valley and the Mary Valley where significant herds of red deer have been established for decades, and the marginal sheep county surrounding the Sundown National Park near Stanthorpe where fallow deer have also been established for many years.

The herd of chital deer near Charters Towers in North Queensland is one of the most significant wild herds of chital deer in the world, outside the Indian sub-continent. It attracts interest from sport hunters from all over Australia and internationally, as well as those from North Queensland.

The sport of deer hunting is by no means unique to Queensland. It is a popular sport enjoyed in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and to a lesser extent in the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Victoria was the first State to move to officially recognise the sport and has adopted recreational hunting as a management tool in the control of numbers of sambar deer in its National Park areas; that is, recreational deer hunting is permitted in certain National Parks and State Forest areas of Victoria.

It is difficult to define the economic worth of recreational deer hunting in Australia. However research undertaken by Mr Myron Cause MSc. for submission to the school of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University in 1990 provided extensive data with which to measure the economic value of the sport.

In summary the three salient points are as follows:-

Total estimated expenditure on local hunting trips (within Australia)	\$10,470,000.00
Total expenditure on overseas hunting trips	\$8,410,000.00
Annual expenditure on hunting related equipment	\$58,440,000.00
	\$77,320,000.00

The survey also took into account projected total recreational "consumer surplus" for hunting conditions and a comparison for significantly improved hunting conditions. This showed a capacity to vastly increase the expenditure on recreational hunting within Australia by improved hunting conditions, that is greater wildlife habitat and



increased herd size of game animals. Clearly it is not appropriate for policy makers to assume recreational deer hunting in Australia is trivial. On the contrary the results show that, as with recreational fishing, expenditure and consumer surplus values of recreational hunting are very substantial and have the potential to be of significant benefit to the national economy.

Bishop, R.C. (1987) Economic Values Defined. in Decker, D.J. and Goff, G.R. (eds.) Valuing Wildlife - Economic and Social Perspectives. Westview Special Studies in Natural Resources and Energy Management. Westview Press. Boulder. 424pp. notes:

*"... by joining us, wildlife professionals do risk defeats in cases in which the economic conclusions run against wildlife, but in instances in which economics favour wildlife they will gain a powerful tool that will greatly strengthen their cases. Evidence is growing that an economic case can be made for wildlife in many instances. On balance, the integration of economics and wildlife biology would be much to ensure that wildlife gets a fair hearing in the policy area. It is high time that the economic contributions of wildlife receive full recognition".*

*The challenge for policy makers in Australia is to begin to apply economic principles to land use decisions affecting deer hunters. A start has been made in Victoria, where the Land Conservation Council's report Statewide Assessment of Public Land Use (LCC 1988) recognises the use of a formal economic framework for comparing land use options.*

O'Brien (1990) Managing Australian Wildlife. Search 21 (1):24-27.) makes an effective point about the management of Australian wildlife, when he notes the need for a pragmatic reassessment of exotic species management, including recognition of values of recreational hunting and game meat. Simplistic arguments about the undesirability of exotics leads to inefficient use of the resource.

It is acknowledged that there is an adverse perception of the traditional sports of hunting and fishing in a limited segment of the population. However an objective assessment of the historical facts often helps to put the matter in perspective. The furore over the opening of the duck hunting season in Victoria every year is ironic when one considers that the very existence of the extensive system of swamps in Victoria on which much of that State's wild fowl live and breed is owed to hunting enthusiasts of past generations whose efforts preserved those swamps and wetlands from drainage for agricultural use. Former Victorian Premier, the late Sir Henry Bolte was an enthusiastic wild fowl hunter and as such was the prime mover behind preservation of public wetlands against drainage and development. This occurred before environmental issues occupied any prominence as a public issue and before preservation of natural habitat became a fashionable cause. It was simply fortunate that a hunting enthusiast happened to be in a position of power at the time when the swamps and wetlands of Victoria were most threatened. This is only one example of many in which individual hunting enthusiasts and hunting groups have agitated for the preservation of wildlife habitat. Whilst it may seem contrary to the simplistic public perception of hunters as ravagers and pillagers of the environment, it is an immutable fact that hunting enthusiasts are the ones with most to lose from habitat destruction.

Again contrary to simplistic public perception the existence of non-native or exotic species does not exclude occupation of the same habitat by native species. In other words it is not necessary to exclude exotic species from an environment to make it

suitable habitat for native species. On the contrary the preservation of exotic species and a suitable environment for them automatically ensures the preservation of native species by providing the most powerful incentive available to determined and active wildlife enthusiasts to ensure that general habitat is maintained.

Similarly a large percentage of the farming and grazing community has a historical and traditional interest in hunting pursuits and the preservation of exotic species for those purposes acts as a positive encouragement for those in possession of vast tracts of land to ensure the preservation of wildlife habitat for they are best positioned to do so, even more so than our Government departments charged with that responsibility, for they at best maintain a clinical and professional view of land and its various usages whereas our farming and grazing communities maintain a close personal and emotional bond with the land and its wildlife.

It should be noted that the preservation of our wild deer herds, at least in South East Queensland, is supported generally by the Land Care Movement, many of whose members are owners of land carrying significant populations of wild deer. If anyone were to be concerned about potential for habitat or pasture damage then one would expect that the Land Care Movement would be the first to raise the issue, as their record of habitat restoration and preservation speaks far louder than the words of all other environmental preservation groups combined.

The herds of wild deer are far less in number, and present a far lesser environmental threat, if any, than we are led to believe. It is a popular and fashionable opinion among text book naturalists to suggest that all non-native animals particularly cloven hoofed animals do damage to the environment and should be removed. There are a few simple and undeniable facts which put the lie to this argument, some of which are that firstly the Queensland wild deer herds are contained to a very limited range and will continue to be so contained by virtue of limitations on suitable habitat. Secondly, they mainly occupy fringe grazing and agricultural land or forestry land which is continually being worked and harvested and as such present little or no threat to a natural ecosystem. Their habitat requirements dictate that they will occupy hardy forms of environment and will rarely, if ever, venture into the delicate forms of environment which we would all wish to see retained in pristine form if possible. Thirdly, the wild deer herds are a potential source of vast tourism income if properly managed. Environmental and wildlife tourism including recreational fishing and hunting is growing at an explosive rate over the rest of the world. Particularly in Eastern European and African countries whose economies are benefiting from the influx of overseas currency generated by this form of tourism. To date Australia has largely missed the boat.

A decision appears to have been made to remove the protection of wild deer herds in Queensland in anticipation of the eventual extermination of the wild deer herds by an official destruction program similar to the B-TEC program undertaken on the water buffalo in the Northern Territory. We are informed that it is the intention of the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Environment and Heritage that the wild deer herds be destroyed to eradicate the cattle tick problem. The folly of this is that not only deer but many other animals, including native marsupials carry cattle ticks and will ensure that properties and livestock are reinfested as quickly as they can be "cleaned". If wild deer herds are such a tick

carrying menace, then it would seem reasonable to assume that the wild deer herds of New South Wales and other areas would be infested with them and would ensure that livestock with which they came into contact would be similarly infested. This is not the case. Tick infestations are governed more by climatic conditions than by populations of feral animals. It should be further noted that both key grazing groups, the United Graziers Association and the Cattlemens Union have rejected the tick eradication proposal as being impractical.

Further lessons can be learned from observing the attempted extermination of buffalo in the Northern Territory under the B-TEC program. Seven hundred and fifty two million dollars of public funds have been committed to the program and we are told that it has been an outstanding success. Perhaps it has been to the extent that our American trading partners seem convinced that the disease has been eradicated. However significant herds of feral buffalo still exist in certain areas and without doubt these will regenerate immediately pressure is lifted. Even if that was not the case and all buffalo were eradicated from the Northern Territory, feral pigs still exist in their thousands and are infected with all the same diseases for which the feral buffalo have been persecuted.

Perhaps the same result could have been achieved by less dramatic means and a valuable asset in the form of a huge recreational resource preserved. It is not for one moment denied that some action was required to curb the environmental damage caused by feral buffalo herds but as with the feral pig populations this could have been achieved largely with the aid of local sport hunting and the international safari industry, the latter of which has a capacity to generate foreign currency income beyond any other form of recreational tourism attempted in Australia to date.

Australia is recognised by the American and European tourist market as a safe and friendly destination and with encouragement we could benefit from a huge influx of foreign currency which many of the small third world countries in Central and Southern Africa have enjoyed over the last decade. These countries have shown the lead in using the funds generated by international tourists participating in recreational hunting to reserve huge tracts of native bushland, along with resident wildlife which would otherwise stand no chance of survival. The only difference between us and them is that the wildlife species hunted on the African continent are native whereas those which we seek to promote as game species are introduced or exotics. There seems no reason why these exotics cannot be used in such a manner to fund habitat preservation both on private and public land in the same fashion as is done with native species in Africa and all over the European continent. For example, Scotland alone benefits from an annual injection of approximately US\$200 million in foreign currency from international recreational hunting. This pales into insignificance next to better known destinations including the newly independent republics of the former USSR which have now opened up to this form of tourism. The industry in Australia is a fledgling one but the potential is inestimable and cannot be ignored.

## CONCERNS

To remove the protection of deer species will expose them at least to mismanagement and possibly worse in the form of attempted eradication. There are many conflicting interests at work and these range from the interests of the extreme environmentalists to those of the forestry department and its advisers, the primary industries of grazing and agriculture through to recreational hunting and tourism. To throw this valuable resource open to the interests of such diverse groups can only be a recipe for disastrous mistakes.

In view of the vast divergence of interests in the deer scene, a FERAL listing will seriously threaten the long term viability of the wild deer herds. We realise that this opinion is contrary to the one that has been stated by some officials from the DPI, Forestry Department and Department of National Parks and Wildlife but we believe that these opinions were given before the full ramifications of this action were realised. These are the areas that we believe need greater consideration.

Deer numbers are reasonably stable at the moment but a FERAL listing would change this dramatically due to these factors:-

- A. As no "bag" limits would be in place, irresponsible shooters could take any number of deer at any time and of any sex or age.
- B. As no "fauna" provisions would apply, large scale poaching would escalate as only firearm and trespass laws would apply. This would mean that a landowner would have to catch a game thief in the act and obtain clear evidence to even have a chance at a "trespass" conviction. No longer would the presence of a dead deer in a vehicle without a permit substantiate an offence and it should be remembered that this is when most convictions to date have been made.
- C. Trespass fines, if a farmer could ever manage to get clear evidence for a conviction, are usually lower than the value of the deer taken. In states such as Tasmania, "game thieves" have blatantly disregarded these fines and the same thing will happen here.
- D. Landowners have always seen a link between the "irresponsible" or "weekend lout" shooter and the incidence of native fauna destruction. These incidences will increase under a FERAL listing of deer as it will promote a "devaluation" of the worth and importance of wildlife preservation in general. We believe that the promotion of sensible hunting practices will lead to a large reduction in this offence.
- E. Listed as FERAL, deer will be able to be shot for pet food both domestically and commercially. It could open the way for deer to be processed along with FERAL pigs for export. It would certainly increase the scale of "black market" venison and velvet which would be of a suspect hygiene level and this would cause a huge problem for industry.

- F. Those landowners with a total disregard for deer would suddenly be able to shoot these animals on sight on his property. As the population of deer in this state migrate short distances during the different seasons this would make it possible for some landowners to totally deplete the deer herds in areas. This will lead to increased friction between different landowners and between hunters to a level which has thus far been avoided under the existing arrangements.
- G. Forestry Department would be able to undertake large scale eradication programs in area they feel deer are causing a problem. To our knowledge there is empirical evidence to substantiate these claims of damage. On the contrary, studies in New Zealand have concluded that no significant damage is done to forestry plantations which cannot be readily controlled. It should be noted that New Zealand populations of deer are significantly higher than those in Queensland. There are cost effective and practical solutions such as electric fencing that can be used to negate the need for eradication.

Members of RIDGE have recently canvassed the opinions of landowners, deer farmers, hunters, local councillors and other deer interest groups and the resounding response was that a FERAL listing would start a irreversible process of self destruction.

#### PROTECTION AND CONTROL

To give our wild deer herds the best possible chance of realising their full worth to the country they must have some form of government protection at least until a sensible private management policy is in place. The easiest and most desirable solution would be to leave them under their traditional protected status until an alternative is settled on. Protection is needed to allow time for deer interest groups to solicit support from the general public. Even if this plan was implemented immediately it would take a considerable amount of time to even start to change traditional hunting behaviour although it is far from impossible. For this reason it is suggested that a least 5 years be allowed before this plan could be self sustaining.

Deer have never reached the plague levels in Queensland as they did in New Zealand. Predation from dingos, eagles, scrub ticks and man have kept the overall population in check. Although the wild herds retreated under trapping pressure they could go back much further if declared as feral and left unmanaged. Landowners know how hard it is to stop trespass and poaching under the traditional fauna laws and realise the increased pressure a feral classification would bring. This in turn would increase the pressure on police and forestry departments. Council by-laws may not have the strength to stop a determined game thief. The Fauna Act holds provision for the confiscation of vehicles, rifles and equipment which is very large deterrent to most would be violators. An undertaking by the QDEH to retain protection of deer would allow time for the implementation of workable alternatives.

hunting. Less poaching, better control of deer numbers, enhanced bloodiness and financial gains are some of their rewards for the role they play. The right of a landowner to his or her privacy and say on their own property must never be eroded and all attempts should be made by hunters to develop better relations.

The wild deer herds in Queensland have provided the resource for farmers, over the last 15 years, to set up a viable deer farming industry. True, at the moment, deer farming like many other farming ventures is suffering greatly from the recession and competition from overseas markets but it clearly won't stay that way for too much longer.

Deer farmers in Australia and overseas recognise AUSTRALIAN strains of deer, especially the red deer, as a completely different sub-species in the same way that New Zealand deer are seen as a different strain from German, Austrian, Hungarian, English, Danish, et cetera. Since release, the Queensland red deer have evolved into a noticeably different sub-species due to the environmental forces placed upon them. We believe that this is an area that should be studied and recognised.

The red and fallow deer of Queensland have proven to be a useful strain of deer when used in conjunction with introduced bloodline strains. They have proved to be a very tough and resilient strain of deer which can adapt to the extremes of climate in this state. If managed correctly they will always provide a resource that can be harvested by landowners to provide additional breeding stock while also helping to keep herd numbers at sensible levels.

The chital and rusa herds of Queensland are unique due to the fact that they are some of the only disease free and viable herds of these deer in our hemisphere. There is a fast growing interest in these Asiatic species for deer farming purposes as they are the best adapted species for our environment in Queensland. Opportunities exist for large numbers of these deer to be farmed in areas of all states of Australia and overseas. They have the ability to be farmed in marginal cattle and sheep areas, WITHOUT the same environmental impact.

Australian deer farmers are now realising that they are one of the few countries in the world that have a supply of almost totally disease free deer, both in the wild and on farms. As markets are closing for our competitors due to diseases such as TB, these markets are opening for us.

To make a decision that may limit the ability of farmers to access these markets without full consultation with industry would be irresponsible.

Landowners embracing deer management strategies on their properties will be able to derive substantial income from this pursuit. It has been proven in many other countries around the world that more income can be obtained from sustainable wildlife harvesting than any other form of low impact farming.

The key to its success however, is that the environment must be carefully protected for the animals to thrive, hence lower stocking of "domestic stock" and more retention of native habitat. As an example, where deer are run on Queensland grazing country, there is no need for chemical treatment of regrowth, in fact most encourage the growth of trees and native scrubs.

## FORESTRIES

Deer have been seen as a pest in many areas of state forest but little, if any, data is there to substantiate these damage claims. Deer are a true low impact animal most of the time and are easily deterred by electric fences if they prove to be a problem in specific areas. Hunting groups could help in times of drought of small pine damage to ensure that the deer do not need to be destroyed. When hunters have shown their ability to manage both the deer and their own members on private country, there is no reason why they could not get limited access to forestry under a ballot system. This works very well in Victoria and is possible here especially in areas where deer are proving to be a problem. Forestries play an important part as a natural breeding and refuge area for deer.

## TOURISM AND GAME RANCHES

A large part of deer tourism is related to the hunting of them. Large numbers of overseas and interstate visitors come to Queensland to hunt our deer herds. Many visit our Game Ranches where a large part of the money they spend filters down into the local community. Deer farmers, fencers, transport operators, taxidermists, sport stores, food retailers, travel agents and motels all benefit. These Game Ranches are ethical businesses and should never be confused with the "Thrill Kill" minority that have received so much attention overseas. Tourism involving deer can be as simple as a tourist taking a photo and a good management plan would increase avenues for these pursuits. Another tourism venture that has a great potential is the free range guided hunting of deer. This has proven to be a very large money earner in other countries and has the potential to provide a considerable income for landowners. It is proving to be very popular with both overseas and Australian hunters.

## POLICING

If deer remain as a protected animal they will be under the protection of the police, QDEH or both. It would be unrealistic to expect either to put effort into the protection of an area that generates little income BUT this is not the case with deer related hunting. Studies done by Myron Cause MSc. showed the huge expenditure by hunters on their recreation and its substantial input into our economy. Under sensible management, this input could be far greater. All areas of deer create revenue and the people involved work and pay taxes, so they deserve a level of law enforcement for their money like any other group in the community

## FINAL SUMMARY

The general idea is to see a management plan implemented that will protect the deer of this state, protect the environment, generate public interest and revenue while allowing for a sensible and sustainable harvest by hunters and landowners.





1999

## THE ROLE OF RED DEER IN THE TRANSMISSION AND PERFORMANCE OF CATTLE TICK IN SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

### Introduction

The cattle tick, *Boophilus microplus*, was introduced to Australia at Darwin in the 1880's. Since then the tick has spread westward to the Kimberley region of Western Australia and southeast to the coastal and hinterland regions of Queensland. The tick is also established in the northeastern areas of New South Wales.

The cattle tick is a serious economic pest, and in Queensland alone is responsible for A\$150 million in lost production and treatment costs. Traditionally, control has been by treating affected stock with chemical tickicides. Unfortunately the ticks rapidly developed resistance to these chemicals. Recently a new 'biological' tickicide was developed which mimics the tick's own enzymes. This new tickicide prevents the tick from moulting, thus trapping the growing animal within its cuticle and it subsequently dies. It is hoped that this new treatment will not lead to resistance.

Based on this new tickicide the Queensland government has embarked on an ambitious program to eradicate cattle tick from southern Queensland.

A small number of Red deer were released in southeast Queensland and the present wild herd of 10,000 - 20,000 derives from this group. Red, Rusa, Chital, Sambar and Hog deer are farmed in the region and some of these species are also represented in the wild herd.

The area chosen for tick eradication coincides with this deer range, and some authorities believe that in order to eliminate ticks there will also need to be a massive reduction in deer numbers. This is simply because some cattle producers and authorities believe that deer are an important alternative host for cattle tick. Furthermore, eradication of wild deer will seriously affect the developing Queensland safari industry, remove a diversification option for traditional cattle and deer farmers, and disadvantage recreational deer hunters.

However there is little definitive information on the role that deer play in the transmission and maintenance of cattle ticks. Anecdotal evidence suggests that deer are poor hosts of cattle ticks and ticks that have fed on deer are inferior to ticks that have engorged on cattle.

This research proposal seeks to quantify the role of deer in cattle tick transmission and determine what impact deer have in acting as a reservoir for tick populations. As such this program continues initiatives established by RIDGE, including:

- Property-based Wildlife Management Plans on private properties,
- Balloted hunting,
- Junior hunter education courses,
- Property security via regular patrols during key times of the year, and
- Hunting access to 350,000 acres throughout Queensland.

## **Research design**

The RIDGE group (Research into Deer Genetics and Environment) and its collaborating partners the Tasmanian Game Management Unit, Queensland Department of Primary Industry and the University of Queensland Faculty of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Veterinary Science have devised a two-pronged research program.

The field stage of the program will see hunters collecting data from wild deer harvested during the annual season. Hunters will be asked to collect up to 100 ticks from each animal. They will also be asked to count the number of ticks within a 50 x 50 cm area on the neck of the deer, and a corresponding area on the flank.

This information will allow an assessment of:

- The species of ticks carried by the deer,
- The proportion of each tick species, and
- The density of ticks in groomed and non-groomed areas.

Concurrent with the field program will be a pen study to assess the viability and reproductive capacity of ticks which have fed on deer. Deer will be infested with a known number of ticks and the fate of these ticks will be monitored. Data from the pen study will include:

- The proportion of ticks which engorge relative to the initial number infested onto the animal,
- Reproductive performance of female ticks which have fed on deer, and
- Viability and performance of nymphal ticks produced from deer-fed ticks.

Data from the field and pen studies will be compared with similar, previous, studies on cattle.

## **Research funding**

So important is the Tick Eradication Program to the ultimate fate of the wild Red deer herd in Queensland that RIDGE has formally allocated A\$5000 to the research program. RIDGE is also providing overall logistical coordination for the field project.

The Tasmanian Game Management Unit (the only Game Management Unit in Australia) is providing in-kind support through the expertise of a Game Management Officer, who is also acting as supervisor for the University student undertaking the research.

Staff at the University of Queensland are providing facilities for the pen study, laboratory space for tick rearing and expertise in tick identification.

The Leader of the Tick Eradication Program with the Department of Primary Industry has offered support for resistance testing of ticks collected from deer and expertise with tick management.

*The purpose of the following report is provide an update on the status, management and possible future of wild red deer in Queensland since December 1995 when the State Government introduced the Nature Conservation Act 1992. This legislation effectively removed all legal protection previously afforded deer under the Fauna Conservation Act.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

Four species of wild deer are present in Queensland including fallow (*Dama dama*), chital (*Axis axis*), Mollucan rusa (*Cervus timoriensis*) and red (*Cervus elaphus*). Red deer are the predominant species in Queensland and as such are the focus of this report. Red deer were first released in the Brisbane Valley in 1873 with a further release in 1874. They quickly became established and currently occupy a total area of approximately 1,437,500 ha in the Brisbane, Burnett and Mary Valleys with the majority being present in a core area of approximately 750,000 ha.

Although, few records are available, most landowners and hunters believe that red deer reached their highest density during the late-1960's. The most recent estimate of wild red deer numbers by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage is between 8-10,000 animals. While no official estimate of hunter numbers is available, many hunters, taxidermists and landowners support a conservative figure of 2-3000.

In past years, the control of wild red deer was accomplished through regulated hunting seasons and licences. Over time, conflicts developed between the recreational hunters and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service resulting in an increasing number of hunters refusing to purchase hunting licences each year. By the late-1980's and early-1990's less than 50 hunting licences were being sold throughout Queensland annually. This enabled the Queensland Government to argue that recreational deer hunters were an insignificant minority group and, as a consequence, that their department should not be responsible for the management of wild deer, especially since they are not native. This soon set the stage for a push to lift the protected status off wild deer and leave their management to the landowners and hunters. This opportunity came with the introduction of the Nature Conservation Act (1992).

## **ATTEMPT TO BLOCK THE NATURE CONSERVATION ACT**

In October 1994, while under the employ of the Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee Inc., I was sub-contracted for 16 days by two hunting organisations including the RIDGE Group (Research Into Deer Genetics and Environment) and the Australian Deer Association (ADA). The primary purpose of this employment was 1). to assist in their attempt to block the legislation by generating sufficient community support and 2). to generate interest in co-operative management arrangements between landowners and hunters similar to those operating in Tasmania.

During that two-week period, numerous public meetings were held throughout the deer range which attracted large numbers of landowners and hunters interested in the future of wild deer. Additionally, I had the opportunity to conduct several TV, radio and newspaper interviews as well as meet with several landowners, Shire Council mayors and Landcare groups. As a result, substantial community support for continued legal protection was generated in a very brief period. In hindsight, however, this proved "too little, too late" as the Nature Conservation Act was officially enacted in December 1995.

In April 1996, nearly two years after this earlier visit, I had the opportunity to return to Queensland and speak with a number of the key individuals within the deer scene and review the progress made since 1994. The remainder of this report focuses on the different approaches taken by the RIDGE group and the ADA since this time.

### **RIDGE GROUP INITIATIVE**

The RIDGE group, formed in September 1993, currently consists of approximately 50<sup>70</sup> members ranging from hunters and deer farmers to landowners and concerned citizens. During the past two years the RIDGE group, through group founder and local hunting guide, Mr Clark McGhie, has negotiated with two landowners and convinced them to trial a balloted hunting scheme on their properties. The goal of this scheme is to provide quality hunting opportunities to members at an affordable price. The hunting rights on these properties were previously controlled exclusively by Mr McGhie for his guiding service.

In 1996, the RIDGE group introduced the ballot system and made it available exclusively to their members and members of Safari Club International (SCI). A nominal ballot entry fee of \$10 was introduced to cover administration costs. Detailed information on the ballot conditions is provided in Attachment 1.

The project currently consists of two properties containing good deer numbers, each divided into a number of hunting blocks ranging in size from 300 ha upwards. Each block is open to two hunters for five days each during April. Limited additional openings may be made available to hunters during May. Hunters are required to supply their own gear, food and transport to their nominated hunting area. The cost is \$50 per day with a \$500 trophy fee for any stag taken. During 1996, only trophy stags were allowed to be taken. The minimum harvest criteria varied from block to block according to the owners requirements, deer population and local conditions but was generally limited to mature stags (> 5 years of age) with 10 or more antler points. Guidelines for cull and meat animals will be introduced in future years.

All hunters were required to complete a deer observation sheet and successful hunters were further required to complete a data collection sheet and submit one or both lower jawbones for age analysis (copy of data sheet provided in Attachment 2). To my knowledge, this is the first organised data collection program ever conducted on red deer in Queensland and should prove extremely useful for future management decisions.

The ballot proved reasonably successful during its initial season (1996) with a number of reasonable stags taken and is therefore expected to continue. Possible changes to the existing system for next year include increasing the daily access fee and reducing or eliminating the trophy fee. This is the result of high hunter selectivity and low hunter harvest which often results in a low and/or variable economic return to the landowner. The RIDGE group and participating landowners are currently negotiating on a more equitable approach for next year. Additional property owners have expressed interest in participating in future years.

*Other properties - - -*

#### **QUEENSLAND ADA INITIATIVE**

The Queensland Australian Deer Association has taken a slightly different approach from the RIDGE group in an effort to achieve the same goal - quality

*over 30  
Hunters:*

hunting and an affordable price. They have approached landowners in the deer range and negotiated for the opportunity to implement deer management programs in return for either hunter labour, a daily access fee or a combination of both (detailed information provided in Attachment 3 and 4). This approach was modelled after the Property-based Game Management approach used in Tasmania. The original initiative came from the Gympie/Mary Valley Branch, but due to increasing landowner interest and decreasing branch manpower, the program was recently handed over to the ADA State Executive.

A yearly membership fee of \$50 per member is required to participate in the program. For those properties trading hunting access in return for labour, hunters are entitled to a two-day hunt in return for two days labour. A \$150.00 penalty will be enforced for each working day missed. These funds will go towards the Deer Management Program. Preference will be given to hunters participating in working days. For those properties not interested in hunter labour, an access fee of \$100 per day for a four day period has been proposed.

To date, 6 properties encompassing 19,000 ac of freehold and 7,000 ac of forestry lease are participating in the program. Although, none of these properties is located in the heart of the deer range, one has good deer numbers and is considered a quality hunting property. The high trophy fees required by many landowners appear to be the major obstacle in obtaining properties in the core deer range.

A major difference in the ADA approach is that the animals are not hunted during the roar (March-April) as is the norm for Queensland. Instead, they will be monitored by observers during this period and a target number of stags, hinds and culls will be established by the management committee. The hunts will begin in May and run through August unless the harvest target is reached earlier. Hunters will also be required to complete a deer observation sheet.

This is the first year of the program so it is too early to judge the success or failure of this approach. One problem they have encountered is fulfilling their obligation to landowners for hunter labour. Many hunters have agreed to participate in the working bees and then have failed to show on the day. As this is a new approach in Queensland, it will no doubt take some time to refine.

## CONCLUSIONS

Since the introduction of the Nature Conservation Act, the two main deer hunting groups in Queensland, ADA and RIDGE, have taken positive, pro-active measures to ensure the future of their wild red deer herds. Although these groups have taken slightly different approaches, both appear capable of providing sustainable, quality hunting opportunities to members at an affordable price.

One obstacle that both programs have encountered is resistance by some hunters to the concept of user-pays (or user-works). This approach is rapidly becoming the norm both within Australia and elsewhere in the world. To a large extent, this approach is necessary to ensure that wildlife populations are maintained into the future. Sadly, few landowners today will (or can afford to) maintain abundant wildlife populations on their properties for their inherent value alone. In particular, many of the larger huntable species are expected to pay their way like other livestock and farming enterprises.

Further investigation is needed to identify non-cash items that may be traded to landowners in return for hunting access. While this approach will likely involve more of the hunters time, it has the potential to cater for the average hunter with a low disposable income. Other systems, like guided hunting, are designed for hunters with limited time or access but a higher disposable income. Obviously, a combination of approaches is needed to cater for the varied hunters and hunting interests.

Another obstacle to these programs is the widespread and increasing problem of poaching. Game thieves are a serious threat to the future of these programs and will continue to prove difficult to control into the foreseeable future. Both groups are attempting to patrol their areas during the critical periods such as during antler growth and the rut, but this has proved difficult to organise, time consuming and only marginally effective.

While the future of Queensland's wild deer is still somewhat uncertain, the progress made during the past two years is very encouraging and provides a reasonable degree of optimism. The establishment of mutually beneficial arrangements between landowners and hunters appears to be the only mechanism by which sustainable deer management programs can be achieved because without legal protection, it is the landowners who will ultimately decide the future of wild deer in Queensland.





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# RIDGE GROUP SUMMER 2002 RED DEER CENSUS INFORMATION SHEET

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## Introduction

The Ridge Group is seeking landowner assistance in estimating numbers and distribution of wild Red Deer in Queensland. This is an on-going project, which has recently been expanded to include the whole of the South East Queensland Red Deer range.

Accurate estimation of deer numbers, sex ratios and mortality rates is critical to effective management of wild deer. Accurate numbers are needed to determine appropriate management strategies such as cull rates and harvest rates, and to identify trends or provide feedback on present management strategies. This study proposes to directly involve landowners in the census process. Wild deer can be perceived either as feral animals who's presence reduces cattle carrying numbers through competition for feed, OR as a resource which can generate additional property income through harvest of wild animals for meat, or through trophy fees from controlled hunting. Irrespective of your particular viewpoint, landowners are stakeholders in the wild deer herd by virtue of the fact that the deer reside, feed and breed on the landowner's property. As such the landowner should have available to him or her, data on deer herd numbers and trends so that he or she can make informed management decisions.

## About Ridge Group

The Ridge Group is a privately funded research group initiated in 1992 to study the impacts of wild deer, their habits, and population and distribution trends in South East Queensland. Ridge has completed or is presently undertaking a number of scientific studies including studies on:

- Parasite burdens and the threat of cattle tick and other parasite transfer
- Competition for grazing resources with domestic cattle
- Herd nutrition
- DNA studies into genetic diversity
- Economic value and prospects for economic return from wild deer
- Base-line population data
- Radio tracking studies into migration of adults and sub-adults.

Several of the Ridge Group's research efforts have been undertaken in collaboration with the University of Queensland and the Game Management

Unit of the Department of Primary Industries Water and Environment  
Tasmania. Results and data from Ridge Group research are available to  
Ridge Group members, contributing landowners and government authorities.

## **Aims and objectives of this census**

This census proposes to use landowner anecdotal evidence to map deer presence and numbers and to support this evidence by limited aerial survey. Landowners are professional stock managers, reliant on stock husbandry, tracking and monitoring for their livelihood. Landowners can therefore be expected to be highly accurate in estimates of livestock on their land, be they cattle or deer. The study is intended to complement surveys undertaken in previous years and to generate baseline data for the establishment of a geographic information system to assist in the long-term management of the deer herd.

This census proposes to develop a density and range map for wild Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) within the study area. The present study area is approximately bound by Brisbane in the South, Murgon and Tiaro in the North, Gympie and Cooroy in the East and by Toowoomba and Dalby in the West.

## **Methodology**

Landowners in the target district will be independently surveyed for deer numbers on their respective properties. Landowners will be asked to answer a series of questions relating to quadrat/property condition, stocking (cattle) density and estimated deer numbers (Survey sheet attached). Landowners will be sent the survey sheet by fax, email or by surface mail. Landowners will be requested to complete and return the survey data within seven days of receipt so as to ensure that data is for a concise period. To reduce the potential for bias, Landowner data and airsurvey data will be collected independently of each other and kept discrete until completion of both aspects of the survey effort. Landowners will also be asked not to discuss census answers with neighbours.

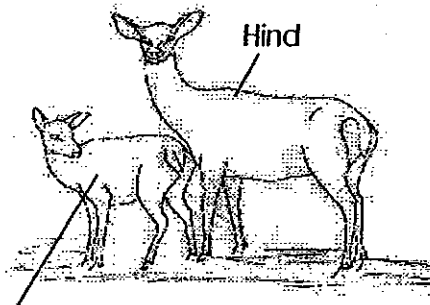
The timing of the census is such that three age groups of deer will be readily discernible even to those not experienced with deer recognition. The three evident categories will be:

- Fawns (about 3 to 4 months of age at present)
- Spikers (young males of about 15 months of age at present)
- Adults (mature females and males; plus females of the same age as spikers)

Fawns will be running in the open with hinds but will be readily discernible by their smaller size (see figure 1). Spikers will be evident by their antler structure (see figure 2).

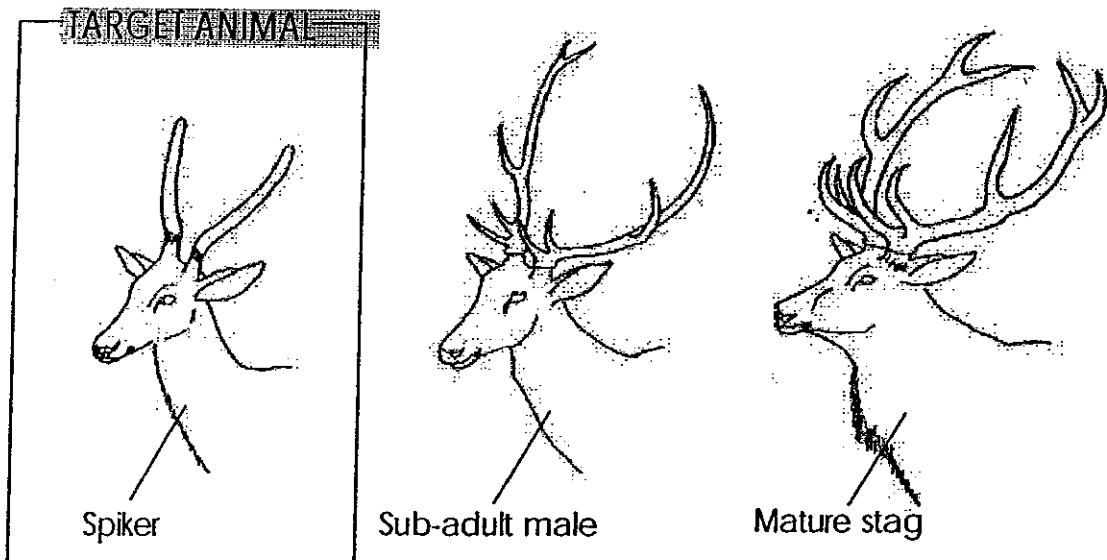
Enumeration of fawns will enable estimation of fawn survival numbers. Survival rate of second year animals will be estimated by doubling counts of spikers (to approximate both male and female numbers) and comparing this to previous years counts of fawns. By comparing numbers of each group to adults over time, survival rates and population trends can be established. It is proposed that this survey will be repeated over a number of years to develop trend data.

**Figure 1 Hind and Fawn**



Fawns will be approximately this size or slightly larger relative to Hinds

**Figure 2 Stages of Stag Development**



Numbers provided by landowners on select properties will be compared to aerial (helicopter) survey results for reference quadrats (flyover quadrats) to establish accuracy of survey methods. A total of ten properties have been selected for aerial survey. Landowners of these properties have been contacted and have consented to aerial survey of their property. Flyover quadrats are approximately 440 hectares (1000 acres) in size and will be exhaustively surveyed for a period of 30 minutes. Flyover patterns for quadrats are determined relative to the ground terrain. Flyover patterns are as per well-established flyover patterns for stock/deer recovery techniques established and proven in countries such as Australia and New Zealand where deer have historically been recovered for commercial and cull purposes from helicopters. Patterns will be flown with the intention that deer within the quadrat are not flushed or "herded" out of the quadrat.

Flyover survey is proposed to be completed within seven days of forwarding census documents to landowners.

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## RIDGE GROUP SUMMER 2002 RED DEER CENSUS

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Participation in this census is voluntary. Your property information and details will be kept strictly confidential. Please answer as many questions as possible. If there are questions that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to skip them. If you would like to discuss this census with someone from the Ridge Group, please call 07 54886103.

To ensure that data for all properties is collected within the same period and to reduce the possibility that deer may migrate and be counted on more than one property, Landowners are requested to complete this form within seven days of receipt.

Once you have completed this form, please fax it to

**07 54886107**

or mail it to

Ridge Group Census Response  
P.O.Box 212  
Imbil  
Qld 4570

Landowners contributing data to this survey will be given access to distribution maps and herd data on request. Information distributed in this manner will not show individual property boundaries nor property or landowner details.

### *Section 1 Property details*

#### **Question 1      Your name and address and contact details**

Your name .....

Today's date      .....th day of March, 2002

Property name (if applicable) .....

Property Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Lot and RP numbers if available .....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Your postal address if different from the property address .....  
.....  
.....

Your contact phone number .....

Best time to call you .....

*Section 2 Stocking density of your property ..... this sections helps us build a picture of what areas deer are attracted to.*

**Question 2      What is your estimate of the potential stocking capacity of your land in beasts per acre?**

If you have a range of carrying capacities and vegetation types on your land please provide a rough estimate with the relevant area that that vegetation type covers. We have provided space for up to 5 soil/vegetation types. If you have less than 5, fill out only as many you need, if you have more than 5 soil/vegetation types, please write the information on the reverse of this page and, if faxing your reply, please ensure that you fax both sides of the page.

Sample answer

sample area 1 2000 acres at 1 beast to 12 acres. Type of country Lightly timbered hilly country

sample area 2 300 acres at 1 beast to 2 acres. Type of country Non-irrigated creek flats (cleared and under improved pasture)

Answer

area 1 \_\_\_\_\_ acres at 1 beast to \_\_\_ acres. Type of country \_\_\_\_\_

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area 2 \_\_\_\_\_ acres at 1 beast to \_\_\_ acres. Type of country \_\_\_\_\_

---

area 3 \_\_\_\_\_ acres at 1 beast to \_\_\_ acres. Type of country \_\_\_\_\_

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area 4 \_\_\_\_\_ acres at 1 beast to \_\_\_ acres. Type of country \_\_\_\_\_

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area 5 \_\_\_\_\_ acres at 1 beast to \_\_\_ acres. Type of country \_\_\_\_\_

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**Question 3**      **Of the areas that you have described above, please circle below, for each season, the area or areas in which you most commonly see deer in. (circle as many areas as you wish)**

In summer	In autumn	In winter	In spring
Area 1	Area 1	Area 1	Area 1
Area 2	Area 2	Area 2	Area 2
Area 3	Area 3	Area 3	Area 3
Area 4	Area 4	Area 4	Area 4
Area 5	Area 5	Area 5	Area 5

**Question 4** Is the presence of deer on your property significantly reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for your property and if so by how much? Please circle below the appropriate answer.

- (1) No, deer are not significantly reducing the stocking potential of my property.
- (2) Deer are reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for my property by up to 10%
- (3) Deer are reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for my property by from 10% to 20%
- (4) Deer are reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for my property by from 20% to 30%
- (5) Deer are reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for my property by from 30% to 40%
- (6) Deer are reducing the actual cattle stocking rate for my property by over 40%

*Section 3 ..... Deer numbers*

**Question 5** Please fill in below in the appropriate space, how many of each of the categories of deer below you believe are presently on your property. (see figures 1 and 2)

Fawns \_\_\_\_\_  
Spikers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mature females \_\_\_\_\_  
Stags (sub-adult and mature) \_\_\_\_\_



**Question 6** If you have previously been contacted by Ridge Group and your property contains a designated flyover quadrate, how many of each of the categories of deer below do you believe are presently within the flyover quadrate. (please skip this question if it does not apply to you)

Fawns \_\_\_\_\_  
Spikers \_\_\_\_\_  
Mature females \_\_\_\_\_  
Stags (sub-adult and mature) \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 7** How are the number of deer on your property this year relative to previous years? (circle the appropriate selection below)

More  
Significantly more  
Less  
Significantly less  
About the same

*Section 4 ..... Physical features of your property. The following questions are intended to help us try to workout what attracts or hinders deer residing on your property.*

*We can estimate how hilly or flat your property is from topographic maps, but we need to know how much water and what quality of feed is available to deer and a little about the physical characteristics of your property. If you are uncomfortable about answering any of these questions, please feel free to skip this section.*

**Question 8            How many paddocks is your property divided into?**

(this question gives us a guideline as to how many obstacles/fences the deer must traverse when travelling within or through your property)

No. of paddocks \_\_\_\_\_

**Question 9            What surface water is available on your property? Please fill in the appropriate number or circle your selection.**

No. of stock troughs \_\_\_\_\_

No. of dams \_\_\_\_\_

Are there seasonal creeks or rivers running through your property? Yes/No

Are there permanent creeks or rivers running through your property? Yes/No

On a scale of 1 to 5 (with one being empty and 5 being full) please circle below how full are your dams at present.

1      2      3      4      5

**Question 10**                      **On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being after prolonged heavy grazing and 5 being as good a stand of feed as that vegetation type can carry), please circle below, for each of the areas that you have described in Question 2, the present body of feed available.**

This question relates to what condition a particular area is in, not the total amount of feed that is available. For instance, ridge country that has not been grazed for several years may be assigned a level of 5 in the scale below; whereas your improved pasture may have just been fed off or baled and so be assigned a score of 2. This does not mean that there is less feed in the improved pasture than in your ridge country, only that the ridge country is carrying close to its full capacity of feed.

Area 1	1	2	3	4	5
Area 2	1	2	3	4	5
Area 3	1	2	3	4	5
Area 4	1	2	3	4	5
Area 5	1	2	3	4	5

**Question 11**                      **What is the general condition of feed on your property at the time of the census? Please circle one or more of the appropriate conditions below.**

Fresh

In seed

Haying off

Dry

Burnt

Rank

Thank you for your valuable and much appreciated assistance. Once you have completed this form, please fax it to

**07 54886107**

or mail it to

**Ridge Group Census Response  
P.O.Box 212  
Imbil  
Qld 4570**

Please remember that data from this survey is intended to assist you in your efforts to manage deer numbers on your property. As you would realise, your efforts alone will have very little influence on deer numbers or total herd management. However, once your data is pooled with information from other landholders like yourself, you will have access to meaningful information on population trends and be kept up to date with management strategies developed by Ridge and it's research partners.

If you would like to know any further information about this survey or about the Ridge Group in general, please feel free to call 07 54886103.

Ted Pedersen

Consulting Biologist, Ridge Group.



## Parks Management of pest and problem species in QPWS-managed areas

*Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Environmental Protection Agency, which incorporates the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Operational policies will not be applied inflexibly to all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require an alternative application of policy.*

### Policy issue

How are pest and problem species managed in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service-managed areas?

### Background

Several Acts, Regulations and local laws are aimed at preventing, eradicating and controlling pests in Queensland. The QPWS estate is bound by the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* and associated regulations and the yet to be proclaimed *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and associated Regulations. The *Health Act 1937* and several Acts administered by the Department of Primary Industries also provide some regulation on related matters. The *Animal Welfare Act 1992* (Cwlth) and the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* are also relevant.

QPWS has a responsibility to comply with these pieces of legislation and manage pests in its estate which includes:

- protected areas managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
- state forests, timber reserves and forest reserves managed under the *Forestry Act 1959* (noting that a memorandum of understanding and operational guidelines exist with the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) with respect to the management of these lands); and
- lands and waters under the *Marine Parks Act 1982* (including day-to-day management under the *Great Barrier Marine Parks Act 1975* (Commonwealth)).

Pests are a threatening process in relation to biodiversity and have detrimental impacts on the presentation of areas to the public. They compete with native species for resources such as food and shelter, prey on native species and damage facilities including buildings, inhibit regeneration of native plants and may cause health problems. Therefore managing pests on QPWS managed-areas is an integral part of the Service's overall responsibilities for conserving our natural, cultural and historic heritage.

QPWS respects the local community's requirements to control pests and the impacts pests can have on the productive capacity of rural lands. Where feasible, QPWS will cooperate in joint control programs with surrounding landholders provided the natural integrity of the estate is not affected.

People with leases, permits or other agreements involving the estate assume the role of occupiers and therefore have a range of responsibilities for pest management actions.

### Definitions

A **problem species** is any native wildlife (any taxon or species of an animal, plant, protista, prokaryote, or virus as defined in the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*) which can be detrimental to the natural integrity of the estate or threaten visitors, amenities, or neighbouring human populations and their domestic animals and production.

A **pest species** is any non-native wildlife which can have the same detrimental effects.

**Pest and problem species management** includes all activities involved in the prevention, detection, control or, where appropriate, eradication of pest or problem species in QPWS-managed areas.



## **Determination**

In managing pest and problem species on its managed lands, QPWS will:

### **Adopt Guiding Principles**

- the objective of pest and problem species management will be the permanent preservation of an area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values.
- an integrated approach to pest and problem species management that is directed at long-term strategic effectiveness and that takes account of ecosystems and/or landscapes will be adopted.
- priority will be given to managing pest species on the basis of legislative requirements;
- risk management principles and resource availability factors will be integrated into decision-making on pest species management.
- humane methods will be used at all times and sick and injured animals will be humanely destroyed.
- the best available scientific and technical knowledge will be employed.
- partnerships will be forged with known traditional owners, neighbours and the broader community.

### **Plan**

- adopt and periodically review the QPWS Pest Management Plan prepared to meet the requirements of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*.
- participate in the development and review of local government pest management plans to ensure linkages with the QPWS Pest Management Plan.
- adopt landscape level plans for pest control programs which strategically link actions and develop partnerships across cadastral boundaries.
- develop a standard *Pest Management System*, which integrates planning, monitoring and reporting and is supported by policies, principles, GIS and technical information.
- ensure that planning for pest and problem species management is integrated with all other planning processes conducted for an area or relevant to an area, and is in accordance with the pest management system.
- facilitate planning through the adoption and enhancement of ParkInfo as its sole GIS/Data Management tool.

### **Consult**

- consult in the preparation of the QPWS Estate Pest Management Plan and Pest Programs with interested parties;
- notify neighbours and the general public of pest control programs.

### **Implement**

- use targeted and integrated control methods and materials to minimise impacts on indigenous plants, animals, and land and water ecosystems;
- focus on strategic control programs but be ready to undertake rapid control of highly invasive and potentially very detrimental pest species.
- maintain a high degree of professional and operational expertise and capacity among Service staff to identify, control and manage pest and problem species through appropriate levels of training, mentoring and providing necessary equipment.
- notwithstanding existing legislative provisions, where other parties have a legal interest over a QPWS-managed area, QPWS will oversee and prescribe pest and problem species management requirements through measures such as appropriate conditioning on leases or permits.

### **Monitor**

- undertake regular targeted surveys for the early detection of potential pest incursions;
- monitor the distribution, activity and density of pest and problem species within QPWS managed -areas; and
- participate in and/or facilitate research into the impacts and control of pest species.

### **Evaluate and Report**

- evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of control programs and report through ParkInfo.



## Parks

## Pest animal control programs

Operational policies provide a framework for consistent application and interpretation of legislation and for the management of non-legislative matters by the Environmental Protection Agency, which incorporates the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Operational policies will not be applied inflexibly to all circumstances. Individual circumstances may require an alternative application of policy.

## Policy issue

How are pest animal control programs implemented on QPWS managed areas?

## Background

EPA/QPWS has a legal responsibility for control of pests on its estate in Queensland under several Acts and associated regulations.

The EPA/QPWS estate includes:

- Protected areas managed under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*;
- State forests, timber reserves and forest reserves managed under the *Forestry Act 1959* (noting that a memorandum of understanding and operational guidelines exist with the Department of Primary Industries (Forestry) with respect to the management of these lands); and
- Land and waters under the *Marine Parks Act 1982* (including the day-to-day management under the *Great Barrier Marine Parks Act 1975* (Commonwealth))

Pest animal control programs will be supported by the Pest Management System. That system will have provision for State, landscape and reserve level strategies and emergency response procedures. The system will integrate planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting for pest management. It will use ParkInfo as the GIS platform and data management tool.

## Definitions

**Pest animal**- is any non-native animal which can be detrimental to the natural integrity of the estate or threaten visitors, amenities, or neighbouring human populations and their domestic animals and production.

**Pest animal control program** - is any planned activity aimed at managing, reducing or eradicating a population of specified pest animal in a defined geographical area.

## Determination

### 1. Objectives

The objective of a pest control program should be defined prior to its commencement. The objective of the control program may be to:

- eradicate the pest or pest populations at the landscape or local scale; or
- reduce the pest or pest population to a level below breeding and survival rates at the landscape or local scale; or
- control pest populations to a level where the sustainability of an ecosystem or specific species in an ecosystem is not at risk.

A planning process that integrates the impact caused by the pest, the effectiveness of the available methods and resources available, will determine the objective. Where a pest animal control program involves more than one pest animal (such as wild dogs and pigs) the desired outcomes and the relationship between the impacts of the pests will need to be clearly articulated in the objectives.

## 2. Planning

Within the Pest Management System, a risk assessment process will determine priorities and optimal methods for pest animal control programs.

Integrated regional or local pest control programs will be the preferred approach. These may be carried out with traditional owners, relevant landholders, local communities and government agencies. Opportunistic pest animal control activities may be carried out provided they are part of a planned program with predefined objectives and outcomes monitored.

Environmental conditions such as drought and fires, which provide opportunities for maximising the effectiveness of a pest control program, should be taken advantage of and considered in the planning process. The impact of control programs on other users of the area and on the environment will be minimised by careful and comprehensive planning, implementation and monitoring.

## 3. Control Methods

A pest control program manager is to be appointed to manage each individual program. Appropriately trained and competent staff who have the appropriate personal protective equipment must conduct all pest control programs. All pest animal control programs will have completed a health and safety risk assessment and a safety zone assessment.

QPWS will use the most appropriate control method available after considering:

- preference for non-lethal methods of control
- impact on non-target species particularly rare and threatened species
- the population of pest animals and their distribution
- practicality of the methods given the bio-physical characteristics of the locality (including terrain, climate, remoteness)
- availability of resources and cost effectiveness of the alternatives
- tenure and uses (including the lessees and permit holders)
- aerial shooting will be permitted in situations where it is shown to be the most humane and efficient form of control.

The range of control methods currently in use by QPWS for pest animal control is summarised in Appendix 1. Humane methods will be used for all pest animal control programs. All lethal methods will be referred to an appropriate ethics committee.

For feral horses, only sick or injured individuals will be culled. Mustering of feral horses for relocation/sale is permitted.

## 4. Notification

The pest animal control manager must keep all adjoining landholders and any other parties likely to be affected by the activity notified on the general operation of the control program and updated on any changes. Additionally signs should be erected as necessary on the area.

## 5. Approval

All pest animal control programs involving lethal control must have the approval of relevant regional Director except under circumstances where emergency control is required. All other pest animal control programs to have the approval of the District Manager. Opportunistic pest animal control may be carried out without prior approval provided it is consistent with an approved strategy, program or emergency response procedure where objectives are clearly pre-defined and outcomes are monitored.

## Other Matters to Consider

Pest animal control programs that have been approved prior to the issue of this policy must be amended where necessary and re-submitted for approval.



# Management of wild fallow deer in Tasmania: a sustainable approach

BRIAN P. MURPHY<sup>1</sup>

Fallow deer (*Dama dama*) are the only deer species established in Tasmania and current population estimates range from 15,000-18,000. Approximately 3,500 hunters harvest about 1,500 animals annually during the legal hunting seasons with additional females harvested under crop protection permits. Previous deer management strategies in Tasmania have failed to find sustainable solutions to many issues such as habitat loss, crop damage, competition with livestock, and declining deer herd quality. In 1993, the Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee Inc. (TDAC) initiated a project to develop long-term strategies to address these issues. Their approach has been to initiate Property-Based Game Management Plans (PBGMPs). PBGMPs are property-specific written agreements between landowners and hunters that provide strategies for managing deer and other wildlife at acceptable levels while achieving a broad range of conservation objectives such as habitat retention and/or improvement. The initial results of these plans are encouraging and demonstrate that, when properly managed, wild deer can provide benefits to government agencies, landowners, hunters, the community, and even native wildlife. This project is the first of its type in Australia and, if successful, may serve as a model for other State wildlife agencies to follow regarding the management of wild deer.

Key words: *Dama dama*, fallow deer, Tasmania, game management

## INTRODUCTION

Fallow deer (*Dama dama*) were first introduced into Tasmania in 1836 and since have expanded their distribution to include nearly one-third of the state (Bentley 1978). More than 100 private properties in Tasmania currently contain fallow deer although the populations on these properties vary greatly from just a few animals to several hundred. The current statewide population fluctuates annually but is estimated to be between 15,000-18,000 and reasonably stable (Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service unpubl.). Approximately 3,500 hunters harvest 1,500 deer (male and female) annually during the legal hunting seasons with additional females being harvested under crop protection permits.

The majority of properties in Tasmania containing wild deer are currently used for sheep grazing. For the most part landowners view deer as an asset and of little consequence to their grazing operations. However, the depressed wool market during the past several years has forced many landowners to diversify their operations simply to remain viable. Some have cleared and improved more land to increase livestock numbers while others have increased production of agricultural crops. Regardless, both land use modifications radically alter the landscape, and reduce the habitat available to many native species. However, this altered situation has created favourable conditions for some herbivores such as deer, wallabies, and possums. As a result, in some areas local populations of these species have increased and as a consequence so have the conflicts with landowners.

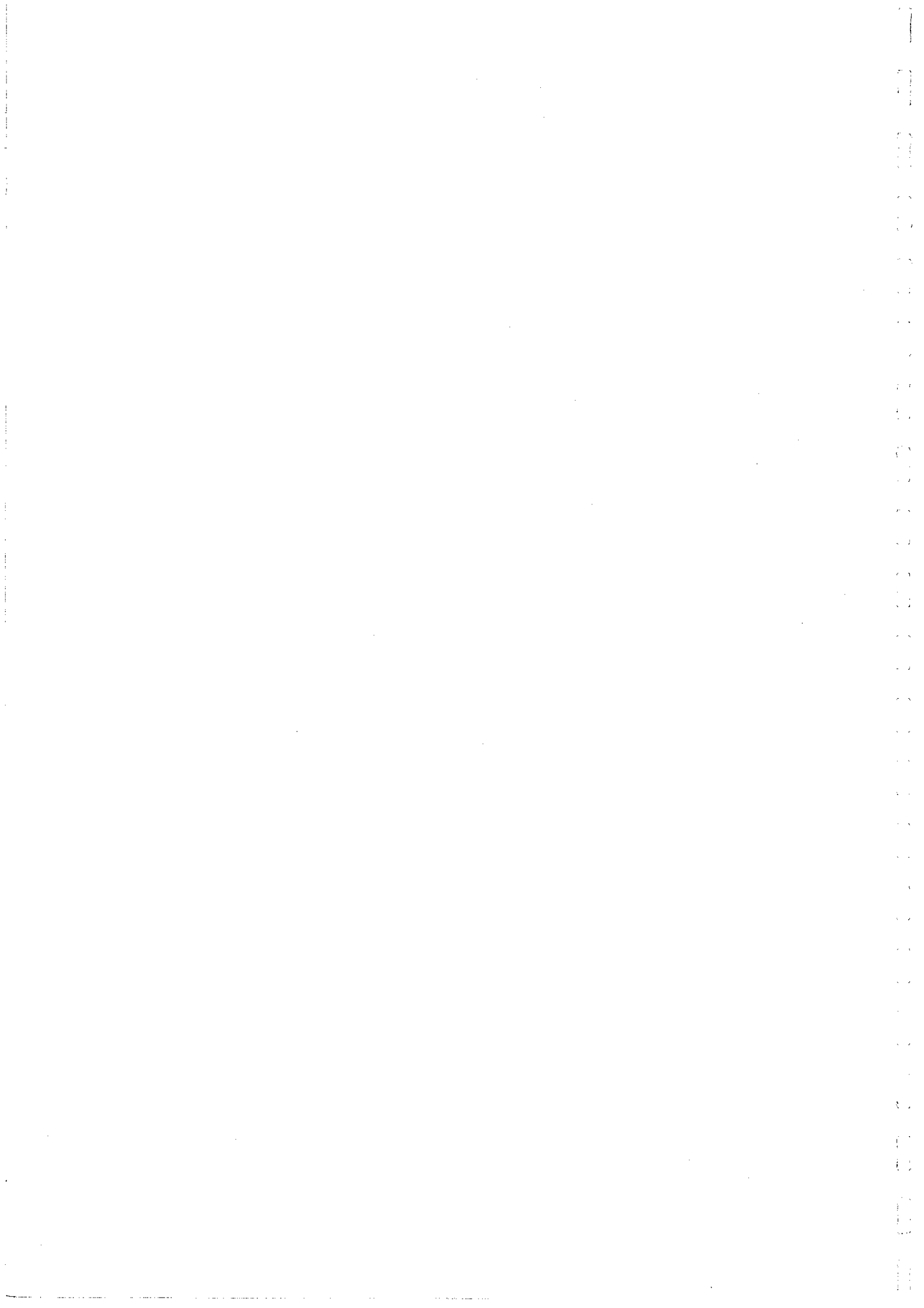
In most cases where large deer herds exist, the sex ratio is highly unbalanced in favour of females (Murphy 1994). This situation has resulted from an excessive harvest of males coupled with excessive protection of females. The result in many cases is a deer herd that is too large to be compatible with current land use activities and one that contains too few older males for quality hunting. Clearly, there is a need for a progressive management approach which maintains deer and other wildlife at acceptable levels, provides landowners with incentives to retain and improve wildlife habitat, and addresses the biological needs of the deer herd.

## ECOLOGY OF FALLOW DEER

Fallow deer are gregarious, seasonal breeders. They are very adaptable and capable of tolerating a wide range of climatic conditions and vegetation types. Throughout the world, fallow can be found in temperate forests, tropical forests, savanna, and grasslands (Chapman 1993). In Tasmania, some herds exist exclusively in forested areas while others exist almost entirely in open areas. However, the majority of herds occupy areas that have been altered by man creating a mosaic of habitat types including forest, savanna, improved pasture, and agriculture. Because of their social nature, fallow tend to form herds and congregate in areas containing these desirable habitat components (Chapman & Chapman 1975).

Few data exist on the diet selection of wild deer in Australia. Hofmann (1985) classified fallow as intermediate feeders similar to many of the bovids. Although primarily grazers, fallow readily consume

<sup>1</sup> Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee Inc., PO Box 544, Glenorchy Tas 7010



6th September, 1992

## NATIONALS VOW TO PROTECT QUEENSLAND'S WILD DEER HERDS FROM COMBEN

**Trevor Perrett**  
M.L.A., Member for Barambah



The National Party will develop a plan to save the State's wild deer herds from destruction by the policies of Environment Minister Pat Comben.

Queensland has a wild Red deer herd spread throughout the Brisbane Valley, a smaller herd of Fallow deer in the border country near Stanthorpe, Rusa, and Chital deer herds in North Queensland.

Opposition Primary Industries spokesman Trevor Perrett said today Mr Comben had "double crossed" groups intent on keeping the deer herds by excluding them from protection under the new Nature Conservation Act.

He said if anti-deer bureaucrats in the Department of Environment and Heritage followed through on the double-cross, the herds would be quickly destroyed. Hunting seasons would be lifted, and they would be poisoned on Crown Land.

Mr Perrett said that last year Mr Comben undertook to keep deer on the protected fauna list "for the foreseeable future," after groups responded to a departmental proposal to remove the protection.

But when the passage of the new Nature Conservation Act this year caused the repeal of the old Fauna Conservation Act, protection for the deer lapsed.

The groups which sought to continue protection of the deer included deer breeders, hunters, and landholders on whose country they roam.

Mr Perrett said the wild deer, particularly the Red deer of the Brisbane Valley, were a valuable resource which, while exotic, were having no measurable detrimental effect on the environment.

"The deer are a valuable resource for the new industry of deer farming for their venison, and a host of other products," Mr Perrett said.

"They are also potentially a valuable resource for property owners through charges on hunters."

Mr Perrett said owners of properties in the Brisbane Valley with wild Red deer were, without exception, angry at the Environment Minister's act of deception.



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Phone (071) 621381

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**MEDIA  
RELEASE**

"They like having the deer on their properties," he said. "They are a part of the history of our State."

Mr Perrett was speaking before a meeting at the Sheepstation Creek Hall near Kilcoy in the Brisbane Valley on Sunday, called by people concerned for the survival of the deer.

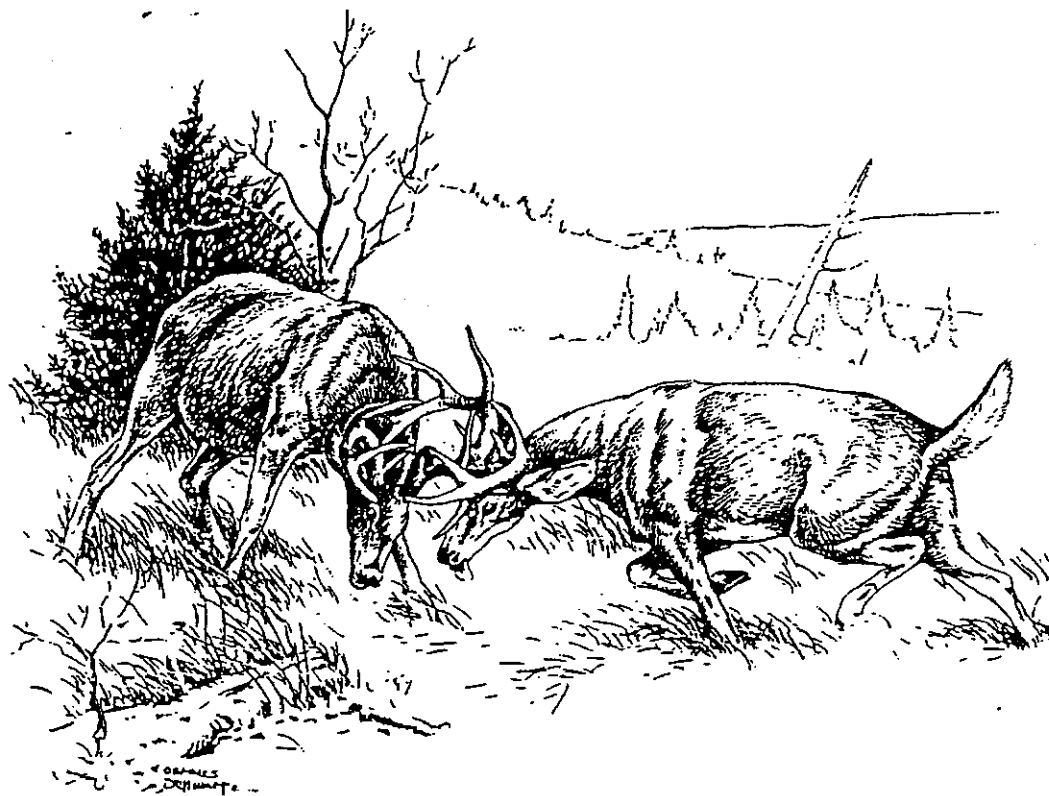
He said the National Party would develop a plan in consultation with deer farmers, hunters, tourism operators, and landholders, to end the threat of wholesale destruction, and ensure the future of the herds.

Mr Perrett said he understood that scarce resources in the Environment and Heritage department meant there was an appropriate focus on native animals.

The Department of Primary Industry would therefore be the appropriate department to manage the herds, in consultation with other relevant departments, because deer farming was the basis of the need to keep the resource renewable.

He said development of a cost-effective and workable policy would require the cooperation, and active support, of all interested groups.

Further information: Opposition Media Office 2267461. Frank Jackson A/H 3005352. Bell Page 8316199. Pager No. 40912. MOBILE 018-728589.



## Counting heads in the herd

A host of decisions start with an accurate estimate of the deer herd.

*Jam E. Ishmael*

Could any other animal draw such a wide and varied interest as the white-tailed deer? I doubt it. Hunter, farmer, forester, hiker and backyard feeder all view deer differently. Likewise, deer are a big business to the sausage maker, sporting goods manager, hotel clerk, tannery and orchardist for different reasons.

The whitetail is remarkably adaptable and thrives in Wisconsin from remote northern spruce bogs to the suburbs of every city. This adaptability and the animal's reproductive potential, its appetite for four to six pounds of food each day and changing attitudes about deer mean that managing whitetails will always be challenging and often controversial.

We talk about the delicate art of managing deer, but in thumbing through old issues of this magazine, I noticed it's been nearly a decade since I described the techniques used to

appraise Wisconsin's herd. Since the young science of wildlife management evolved with our history, take a short look back before we examine the deer herd today.

Deer are creatures of the forest edge. The dense stands of mature hardwoods and pine forests in northern Wisconsin never provided the relatively easy living that deer found in southern Wisconsin. They foraged on plants where the prairies met the scattered oak and maple woods in southern Wisconsin. Historical research suggests that before Wisconsin was settled by Europeans, deer populations fluctuated widely and wildly as weather, uncontrolled fires and predators affected the herd and its food supply.

Changing land uses had much more dramatic effects on the deer herd than hunting or predators. Land was cleared for agriculture, huge

stands of timber were toppled, fires were controlled (eventually) and natural predators were first decimated, then eradicated.

Hunting traditions were different too. Deer were hunted year-round to fill local larders and sell to meat markets in growing cities.

By the early 1900s, deer populations were much lower statewide. But their population densities largely had flip-flopped: populations were overhunted and eliminated in southern Wisconsin and young growth on cut-over pineries in the Northwoods provided better food and cover. Nevertheless, deer thrived and swiftly recovered where habitat and regulated hunting permitted.

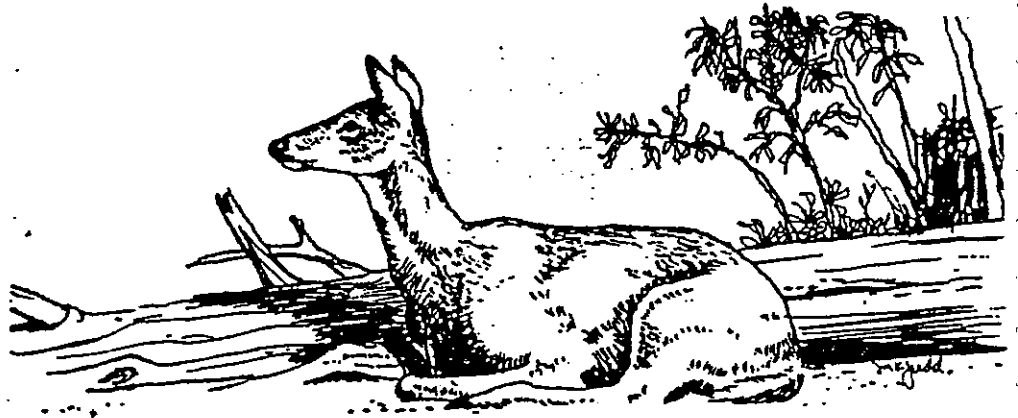
By 1950, hunters in 47 counties took an estimated 168,000 deer. Today's herd, an estimated 1.3 million whitetails, will provide a bountiful fall hunt. While DNR wildlife managers,

chnicians and researchers developed a deer management program modeled in other states, we can't allow in our success. In fact, these days we are working just as hard to bring in and slowly reduce the herd size as we formerly worked to make it grow.

## Dividing deer habitat into manageable blocks

The foundation of Wisconsin's program, the deer management unit, is a tool for tracking and managing the deer herd. Just as we form boundaries to distribute children equally to school districts, wildlife professionals have divided Wisconsin deer range into 119 management units — natural areas where similar soil type, vegetation and land use can support distinct numbers of deer. These 119 units are bounded by highways or waterways so they are more easily defined.

Within each unit, the wildlife manager calculates how many square



Managers strive to maintain healthy deer populations for hunters and deer watchers. Recreational interests in a larger herd are moderated to limit deer damage to farm crops, ornamental plantings and minimize traffic hazards.

miles of land are suitable deer habitat. This tally includes each block of wetland, woodlot or forest at least 10 acres in size, all croplands and woodland within 330 feet of cover that will shelter deer, and any additional properties where deer regularly are observed.

Next, the managers estimate how many deer can live comfortably on

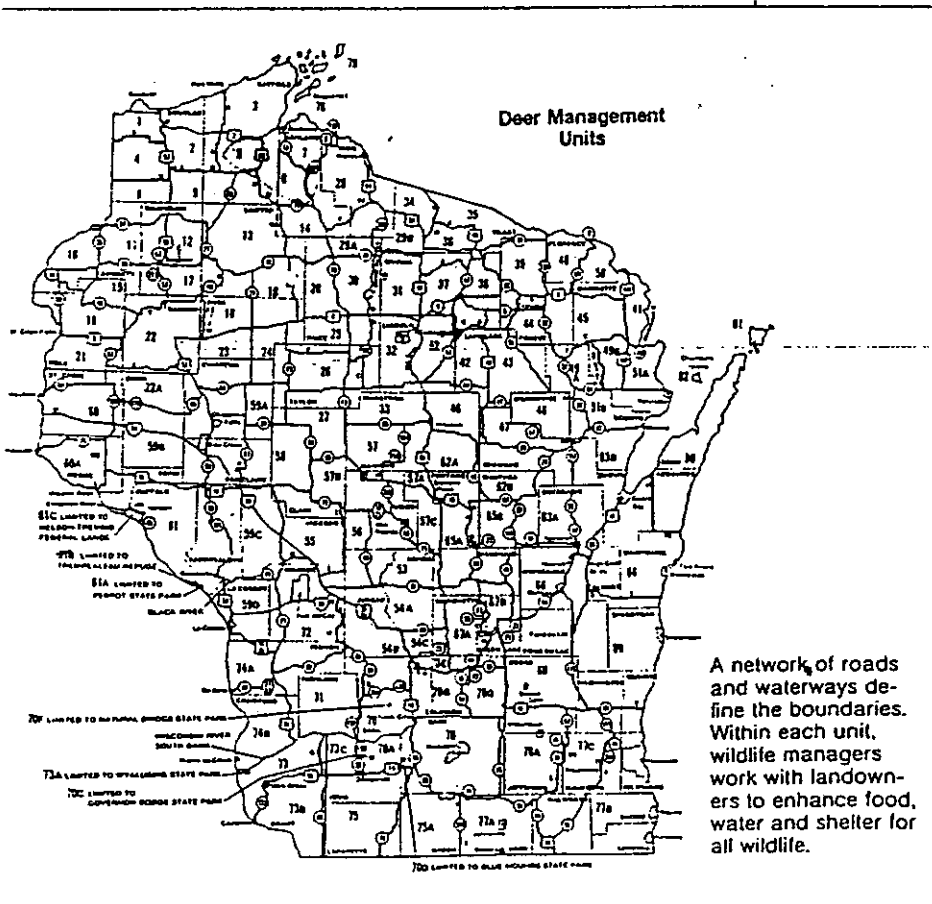
each square mile of range. The maximum number of deer that survive without damaging their habitat is called the "carrying capacity" for a particular block of deer range. Managers aim to keep the deer herd less densely populated than the carrying capacity to protect both deer and the lands on which they live.

An overpopulated deer herd causes different stresses in different places.

Up north, cold winter temperatures, deep snows, late springs and poorer quality foods mean management units can only support 10 to 20 deer per square mile of range. As trees mature and even less sunlight reaches the forest floor, the forest grows fewer low-growing plants on which deer fatten up. Consequently, as forests grow old, they support fewer deer and over-winter populations have to be lowered to ensure deer survive. If deer populations remain too high as the herd heads into winter, the forest can get over-browsed and valuable trees are injured or killed. Wildlife managers work with foresters and landowners to maintain forest openings and keep a diverse age of trees growing throughout forested areas, which benefits many species of birds and mammals in addition to deer.

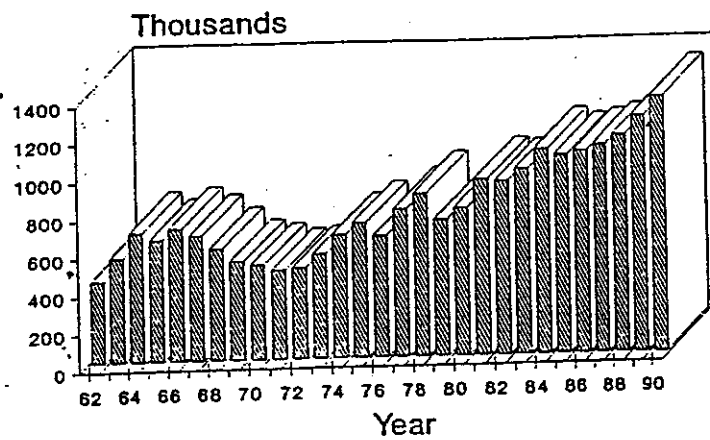
In southern Wisconsin, rolling

*continued on page 27*





### Wisconsin's Fall Deer Population 1962 - 1990



continued from page 22  
 mlands, milder winters and lighter  
 ow cover mean that as many as 50  
 more deer could live on each  
 are mile of range. However, man-  
 ners set plans to keep the population  
 ser to 20 to 35 animals per mile of  
 ge to keep deer from "wearing out  
 heir welcome" with landowners.  
 rger deer herds can cause crop  
 nage and frequently wander onto  
 ads, becoming traffic hazards. In  
 burban areas, deer will heavily  
 owse ornamental plantings and  
 ove right into the neighborhood.  
 ee *In a rut*, p. 22, in our October,  
 89 issue.)

The balance wildlife managers  
 utive to maintain is keeping the deer  
 rd healthy — large enough to sus-  
 n quality hunting without getting  
 large that trees, crops, people and  
 er suffer. That's not an easy balance  
 maintain. If all deer management  
 its were meeting winter population  
 als now, Wisconsin would have  
 out 700,000 deer before the spring  
 vning season. Deer that bred in late  
 ll give birth in spring and would  
 oduce a fall population of a million  
 er. So you can see we are a bit  
 verpopulated now managing a 1.3  
 illion animal herd.

### How the head count is calculated and used

If you've been following the diffi-  
 ulties the U.S. Census Bureau has  
 ounting the country's human popu-  
 ion once a decade, you can appreci-  
 e some of the difficulties of counting  
 opulation that has no formal  
 ome," leaves no forwarding ad-  
 ress and carries no identification.  
 he deer population in each manage-  
 ent unit is calculated annually using  
 complex statistical formula we've  
 een fine-tuning for more than 30  
 ars. The formula, called the Sex-  
 ge-Kill Method, estimates popula-  
 ons by combining information from  
 ore than 350,000 deer registered  
 ch year at 475 stations throughout  
 isconsin. Counting and estimating  
 e age of deer registered by hunters  
 s been the cornerstone of our popu-

lation estimates since registration was  
 first required in 1953.

First, we count the number of  
 bucks harvested and estimate their  
 age. These figures are used to calcu-  
 late buck harvest rates and total buck  
 populations in each unit. Since deer  
 also die from disease, starvation, pre-  
 dation, poaching, car collisions and  
 other accidents, nonhunting mortality  
 is also included in population  
 estimates.

For the statisticians among you,  
 total fall deer populations are extra-  
 polated from the buck population us-  
 ing the following formulas:



To predict how many deer will sur-  
 vive winter in Wisconsin, you must  
 account for the weather, especially in  
 the Northwoods! The Winter Sever-  
 ity Index (WSI) does just that. Daily  
 snow depth and minimum tempera-  
 tures are recorded at 35 northern sta-  
 tions from December 1 through April  
 15 each year. Each day that the snow  
 is deeper than 18 inches adds a point  
 to the index and every day the mer-  
 cury dips below zero adds a point.  
 Winters are considered "mild" when  
 the WSI is less than 50; "moderate"  
 between 50 and 80; "moderately se-  
 vere" between 80 and 100; and "se-



### Sex-Age-Kill Formula

$$\text{Fall Buck Population} = \frac{\text{Registered Buck Kill}}{\text{Buck Harvest Rate}}$$

$$\text{Buck Population Expansion Factor} = 1 + B/D + (B/D)(F)$$

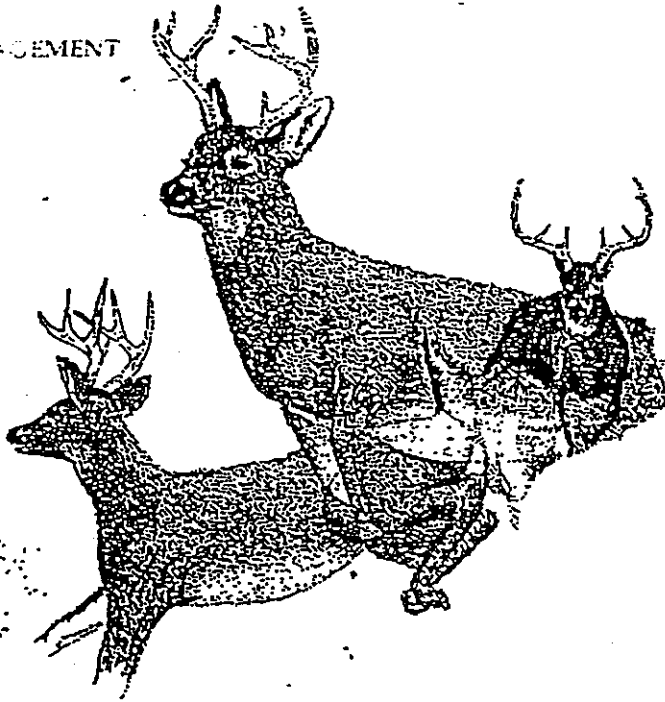
$$\text{where } B = \frac{\text{Proportion of Yearling Bucks in the Adult Buck Kill}}{\text{Male/Female Fawns Aged}}$$

$$D = \text{Proportion of Yearling Does in the Adult Doe Kill}$$

$$F = \text{Fawns Per Doe Ratio from Summer Observations}$$

$$\text{Total Fall Population} = \text{Buck Population} \times \text{Expansion Factor}$$

$$\text{Overwinter Population} = \text{Total Fall Population} - \text{Fall Harvest and Harvest-Related Mortality}$$



Wildlife managers aim to maintain a stable, healthy herd from year to year. DNR staff believe as many as a million white-tailed deer can thrive here providing quality hunting and ample wildlife viewing without endangering natural food supplies, farm crops, ornamental plantings or causing other problems like excessive car collisions. The Natural Resources Board has recommended a shorter hunting season in northern Wisconsin this fall to reduce the current 1.3 million deer herd.

...re" when the WSI exceeds 100. Researchers have noticed a strong correlation between the WSI and the percentage of the northern Wisconsin deer herd that dies from winter stress. Twenty percent or more of the herd dies when the WSI exceeds 100. Research also helps predict the buck harvest based on the WSI for the preceding winter. For example, the buck harvest can increase as much as 30 percent when the preceding winter stayed below a WSI of 50. The harvest can decrease as much as 25 per-

cent when the WSI exceeded 100 the previous winter.

Using these statistical analyses, wildlife managers propose harvest quotas for the fall hunting seasons. These proposals are reviewed with the Conservation Congress and county Land Conservation Committees before recommendations are forwarded to the Natural Resources Board.

## Why hunting is essential for managing the deer herd

There's a well-known tenet in the wildlife management field that "wildlife populations cannot be stockpiled." You can't "spare" the deer kill one year and expect to "save" those animals for the next hunting season. People have so drastically changed land and predator populations that many of the natural controls on deer populations are gone. In the absence of hunting, deer would readily and swiftly damage remaining habitat. Larger deer herds would more seriously overbrowse trees, crops, parklands and private property.

Aside from serving as the most important deer management tool, deer hunting provides a wealth of side benefits for hunters and nonhunters

alike. A stable herd provides ample recreation whether you hunt or just like to see healthy deer. More than 870,000 people enjoy hunting deer in Wisconsin and almost two million people (including many hunters) feed, observe and photograph wildlife.

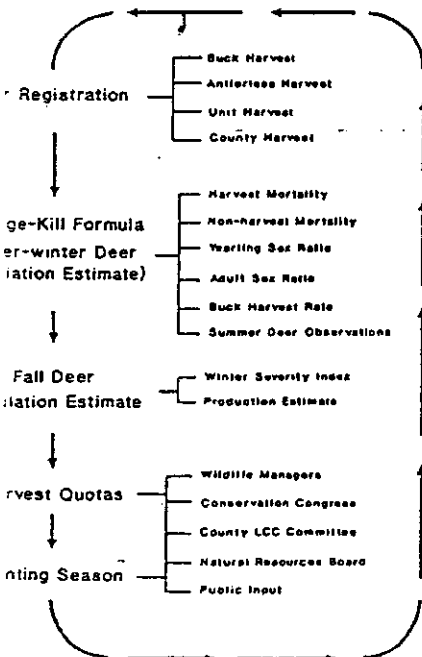
Hunters pursuing their sports invest more than \$13 million each year on licenses in Wisconsin and invest another \$3 million through taxes paid on sporting arms and ammunition. In addition, tourism businesses tally an estimated \$200 million that deer hunting adds to the state economy in motel, food and travel expenses.

Other economic benefits for wildlife are worth noting. Nearly half of all funds to carry out Wisconsin's wildlife and fish habitat programs are financed by deer hunting license fees. Money returned to the states from federal excise taxes is used to purchase land and fund habitat projects, wildlife research, educational programs open to everyone interested in wildlife — hunters, nonhunters, even anti-hunters. Last year alone, more than \$120,000 of the hunters' fees supported Wisconsin's endangered species program. Hunters always have been willing to pay much more than their fair share of the freight for sustaining wildlife populations.

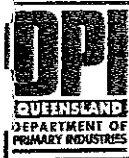
Managing a large deer herd takes on additional challenges as society expects wildlife professionals to weigh the damage whitetails can cause to farm crops, cars, orchards, ornamental plantings and tree plantations against the joy people experience in seeing, hunting, feeding and consuming deer. It means the adept wildlife manager these days is both biologist and sociologist. It means we must recognize that people have dramatically changed deer habitat in the past and our actions to change the landscape will affect the herd in the future. It means managers will be challenged continually to hone their scientific skills to keep deer herds in balance with all facets of the physical and social environment.

*William E. Ishmael manages DNR's programs for deer, bear and furbearers.*

Wisconsin Deer Management Flowchart







# Waybill

A 0615704

## Warning:

Severe penalties apply for knowingly entering false or misleading information on a waybill.

If the intended journey involves moving stock from the Cattle Tick Infected Area you will require a permit from a Stock Inspector as well as this waybill. The stock may also require inspection and/or treatment for cattle tick. Contact the nearest Stock Inspector.

Severe penalties apply when stock are removed illegally from the Cattle Tick Infected Area.

1. Full name and address of the actual owner of stock being travelled

2. Full address of holding, saleyard or place of origin of the stock

Registered Property Number of property of origin of the stock

e. Tail Tag Number or approved Ear Tag Number (where applicable)

3. Name of person or company taking delivery of the stock

4. Full address of destination of the stock

5. Name of person in charge of the stock being travelled

Telephone number ( )

6. Date movement commenced / /

### Particulars of Stock

No of stock	Breed	Description/Sex	Horse & Cattle Brand or Sheep & Goat Brand	Property No. on tailtag/approved ear tag (if different from that shown in 2. above)	Cattle Earmark or Sheep & Goat Earmark

8. Where a permit has been issued for the movement

Permit Number:  Office of Issue:  Permit Expiry Date: / /

9. I,  am the

Name (please print)

Occupier of the holding of origin of the stock

Actual owner of the stock

Authorised agent of the owner

Telephone number: ( )

Signature and Date:  / /



Australian



Clark & Debbie McGhie  
PO Box 212  
Imbil QLD 4570

Adventures

Ph: 0754886103  
Fax: 0754886107  
Email: clarkanddebbie@hotmail.com

**Please read carefully!**

**To enable us to ensure the highest level of safety for yourself, other hunters, the landowner and his property, we ask you to think – Safety First.**

**Before you embark each day, we ask that you consider the following suggestions as a minimum safety procedure.**

1. Check your firearm and equipment – Is it safe?
2. Are you carrying enough water and food for the trip and any emergency?
3. Are you carrying a map of the area, a compass, GPS, UHF radio or mobile phone and do you know how to use them?
4. Have you put thought into a contingency plan in the event of an accident?
5. Ensure that someone knows where you are going and when you intend to return.
6. Have you got matches, bandages, a torch and a space blanket?
7. Have you any medical conditions that may put you at risk? Let someone know before you go.
8. Are you confident with the first aid procedures for snakebite, heat stress, cuts, breaks, sprains etc.?

While you are in the field –

1. Identify any target completely before you consider shooting.
2. Don't attempt any terrain or situation that you are not completely confident with.
3. Don't push yourself beyond your own physical capabilities. Hunt smart, not fast.

When you return –

1. Unload firearms completely before entering camp and store safely.
2. Maintain a high level of personal safety at all time.
3. Don't consume excessive amounts of alcohol.

**Remember – Hunt safe, hunt smart, if in doubt – ask first!**

Australian



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### Rules of Conduct for Hunters.

Developed in conjunction with landowners by Australian Wild Country Adventures  
(AWCA)

1. Each hunter shall hold all licences and permits required pursuant to the "Weapons Act 1990" (\* as amended.)
2. No hunter shall have possession on the land of any illegal firearm.
3. The possession or use of spotlights or dogs is expressly prohibited on the land without permission from AWCA.
4. No hunter shall take any type of animal except as prescribed by AWCA.
5. All efforts must be made to locate and dispatch any wounded animal.
6. Hunters shall report to the AWCA any unlawfully entry or trespass.
7. No hunter shall cross over any external boundary on his or her designated block.
8. All hunters shall, whilst on the land, utilise the highest level of firearm and personal safety standards.
9. All hunters shall conduct themselves in such a manner so as to avoid drawing undue attention to themselves and AWCA.
10. Campsites shall be kept tidy and all refuse removed from the land at the conclusion of the hunt.
11. Hunters shall take extreme care with campfires and acknowledge that total fire-bans can be imposed.
12. No person is to enter or permit any other person to enter upon the land without the express prior written consent of AWCA.
13. The landowner and AWCA reserve the right to exclude any person from the land at any time.
14. AWCA reserves the right, without notice being given, to inspect the equipment, including firearms and ammunition, of any hunter.
15. All hunting areas are part of working rural properties and hunters must exercise all care and diligence in their activities.
16. No hunter shall use any firearm of a calibre less than .270 Win.

#### Useful Contact Details

EMERGENCY: Police, Fire Ambulance 000

**UHF CB: Repeater channel - 1      Local channel - 21**

Imbil hunters contact Clark McGhie	Ph	0754 886103 Home
	Mobile	0429 688192
Debbie McGhie	Ph	0754 845175 Shop
	Mobile	0429 688191
Lance Atthrow	Ph	0754 845484
Harlin hunters contact Rob & Jennie Grieve	Ph	0754 235205 Home.
Kimballa hunters contact Kevin Madden	Ph	0754 973182 Home.