Regulatory Control of Deer in Australia

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Wild deer worldwide

Management issues in many locations:

United States of America
Europe
South America
New Zealand
New Caledonia
Papua New Guinea
Gida Hi
Hawaii
Australia
Significant problems native or introduced

Wild deer cause (or perceived to cause):

- Damage to wildlife habitats and native vegetation
- Damage to agriculture
- Disease risk to domestic stock
- Disease risk to humans
- Deer vehicle collisions
Management of wild deer

Management options are well established:

- Professional culling
- Commercial harvesting (sustainable use)
- Recreational hunting (sustainable use)
- Trapping
- Fencing
- Poisoning
- Contraception
- Predators

Sustainable use of wild deer
- Quality Deer Management (QDM)
- Deer Initiative (DI)
## Wild deer in Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Introduction origin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sambar (<em>Rusa unicolor</em>)</td>
<td>NSW, Vic, SA, NT</td>
<td>1860; Sri Lanka/ India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Deer (<em>Cervus elaphus</em>)</td>
<td>Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA</td>
<td>1865; England/ Scotland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallow Deer (<em>Dama dama</em>)</td>
<td>Qld, NSW, Vic, SA, WA, Tas</td>
<td>1832; England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chital Deer (<em>Axis axis</em>)</td>
<td>Qld, NSW</td>
<td>1861; India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rusa Deer (<em>Rusa timorensis</em>)</td>
<td>Qld, NSW, SA, WA, NT</td>
<td>1865; Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog Deer (<em>Axis porcinus</em>)</td>
<td>NSW, Vic, SA</td>
<td>1860; Sri Lanka/ India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Regulation state responsibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Pest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>Pest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
<td>Pest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Territory</td>
<td>Pest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Capital Territory</td>
<td>Pest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Map showing states and territories of Australia with different colors indicating game or pest classification]
2016 survey

Contacted policy officers in every state and territory
Short 8 question survey sent
Every state and territory replied
Survey results summary

1. Wild deer are an increasing management issue
   – Regardless of classification (game or pest)
2. Legislation is under review in almost half of Australia
3. State departments major role in monitoring
4. State departments responsible for management
5. State departments fund management
6. Public land management undertaken by:
   – Government employees, contractors and recreational hunters
7. 50% of state departments engage with recreational hunters
8. 25% of state departments quantify number of recreational hunters
Recreational deer hunters
sustainable use of wildlife

- Licence sales in Tas and Vic exceed 35 000 per annum
- 200 000 recreational hunters in Australia
- Economic returns to landowners in some areas
- Monitoring on private properties by recreational groups
- Benefit is currently unknown
Pest declaration

- Issues created by wild deer are increasing
- Only achieved results in localised areas
- Not maintaining deer numbers on a broad scale
- Some engagement of recreational hunters by state governments
- No revenue is created via license sales

Limited knowledge of:
- Scale of recreational hunting
- Size of the recreational take

No existing framework to:
- Increase this knowledge
- Increase further engagement
Game declaration

• Issues created by wild deer are increasing
• Sustainable use of wildlife
• Not maintaining deer numbers on a broad scale
• Greater engagement between state departments and recreational hunters

Knowledge exists on:
  – Amount of deer hunters
  – Scale of recreational take

Framework exists to increase:
  – Knowledge on hunters
  – Engagement to improve outcomes
Conclusion

• Funding for wildlife management is limited
• Increase the sustainable use of wildlife (public and private land)
• Complement government employees and contractors work
• Licensing increases:
  – Funds at state level
  – Facilitate greater engagement
• Sustainable use on a property scale
• Property based programs can complement state wide programs
• Scope to increase engagement with recreational hunters and state departments
• QDM and DI provide models of how sustainable use can assist reduction of negative impacts
Acknowledgements

- State government policy officers in each state and territory responsible for the management of wild deer
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- Matt Godson (Sporting Shooters Association Australia)