

Deer Farming

The Wildlife Regulations provide for the protection and management of wildlife in Tasmania. These Wildlife Regulations are now due for review and remaking, before 30 November 2020:

- ▶ [Wildlife \(General\) Regulations 2010](#)
- ▶ [Wildlife \(Deer Farming\) Regulations 2010](#)
- ▶ [Wildlife \(Exhibited Animals\) Regulations 2010](#)

PURPOSE OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

The purpose of this Infosheet is to help frame the discussion/comments with targeted stakeholders during the first stage of consultation.

This Infosheet describes the Wildlife Regulations that relate to Deer Farming, including the management of escaped farmed deer in Tasmania.

This Infosheet includes matters that have been identified by various stakeholders, external to the Department, since the Wildlife Regulations were last reviewed in 2009. They do not represent the views of the Department.

The Department is, in this stage of the consultation, seeking the views of identified stakeholders about the efficiency, effectiveness and adequacy of the regulations.

Note: The 2017 *Legislative Council Government Administration Committee "A" Inquiry and Report on Wild Fallow Deer in Tasmania* identified strong and divergent views on deer management. The [Government's response](#) to this inquiry is being put into action presently through a separate process.

REGULATION OF DEER FARMING

The Wildlife Regulations distinguish farmed deer from wild deer on the basis that farmed deer exist behind an approved fence. The Wildlife Regulations provide for the ownership of farmed deer by a deer farmer, and remove of the need for a deer farmer to have permits to buy, sell, possess or slaughter farmed deer.

A person who wishes to farm Fallow deer may apply to the Department by completing an Intent to Farm Deer Registration Form and provide details of their fencing arrangements. A deer farming application can be refused if the location of the proposed farm poses a threat to the area or the fence is inadequate to contain deer. A refusal of a deer farm application is subject to review by the Magistrates Court.

A Department officer may inspect a deer farm to ensure that it is fully enclosed by an approved deer farm fence. If the officer considers that the fence is no longer effective, a notice may be given in writing instructing the deer farmer to carry out repairs, modifications or additions as specified in the notice, with which a deer farmer must comply.

Deer farmers can, but are not required to record, mark, tag or brand their farmed deer.

Before disposing of any farmed deer or product of farmed deer to any other person, a deer farmer must give that other person a receipt describing the date of disposal, the farm deer or product of farm deer being disposed of, and detail the deer farm of origin. A person, other than the deer farmer, must not possess any farmed deer or product of farm deer unless that person is in possession of a receipt in respect of that farm deer or product of farm deer.

MANAGEMENT OF ESCAPED FARM DEER

The Wildlife Regulations contain provisions aimed at reducing the risk of farmed deer escaping, or being released, and remaining at large in the wild.

The Wildlife Regulations make it an offence to cause or permit any farmed deer to either escape or be released into the wild. As soon as practicable after a deer farmer becomes aware that any farmed deer has escaped or has been released in the wild, they are required to notify the Department of that escape or release and take all reasonable steps to recover the farmed deer, or if it is necessary to prevent an immediate risk to the public or environment, destroy the farmed deer.

Any farmed deer, having escaped or having been released into the wild, which is not recovered within 48 hours after the deer farmer becomes aware of the escape or release, is forfeited to the Crown and is then considered partly protected wildlife. A deer farmer can request an extension of the 48-hour period. It is incumbent upon the deer farmer to comply with record keeping or marking provisions so as to be eligible for the recapture provisions outlined above.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED PREVIOUSLY BY STAKEHOLDERS

The following points represent some issues that have been identified by various stakeholders since the regulations were last reviewed. They do not represent the Department's position on any particular matter:

1. The commercial deer farming industry is of the view that farmed deer should be considered livestock and commercial deer farms should not be exposed to additional legislative requirements.
2. The Wildlife Regulations do not require a deer farmer to mark or tag farm deer or to keep records relating to deer on their deer farm. This limits the ability to identify and trace the source of deer, including those found in non-traditional and peri-urban areas.
3. The Wildlife Regulations do not clearly provide for closure of deer farms that pose an on-going and unacceptable threat to the natural, social or economic values of an area.
4. The Wildlife Regulations do not currently allow conditions to be imposed on the operation of a deer farm to reduce the likelihood of escape and establishment of farmed deer in the wild.
5. The Wildlife Regulations impose few restrictions on the sale of live farmed deer, potentially allowing the sale of farmed deer to persons unable to securely contain them.



2019 WILDLIFE REGULATIONS REVIEW

REVIEW PROCESS – WHEN CAN YOU HAVE YOUR SAY?

This Infosheet has been developed to assist the first phase of consultation with key stakeholders. The Department has engaged with around 90 groups and individuals. The Department is also reviewing existing regulatory practices for regulatory consistency to identify potential improvements.

Draft Regulations will be released in mid-2020 for public comment.

If you have an interest in receiving information on the review process, please contact the Natural Heritage Policy Section on (03) 6165 4422 to register your interest.



Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment

For further information about the review email NaturalHeritage.Policy@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-regulations-review