

Hunting Wildlife

The Wildlife Regulations provide for the protection and management of wildlife in Tasmania. The following 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 commercial and recreational hunting of wildlife in Tasmania. The Wildlife Regulations provide for the sustainable management and harvest of Tasmania's wildlife, including game species, and protect the welfare of the animals being taken.

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. Open seasons for hunting game are set under the *Nature Conservation (Open Seasons) Order 2004*, which is also not subject to this review.

COMMERCIAL HUNTING OF WILDLIFE

The Wildlife Regulations provide for the commercial use of products of hunted wildlife. They set take limits and conditions on the taking, possessing and trading of wildlife species for commercial purposes in accordance with the conditions of the licence during defined open seasons. Licensees may sell untreated and unmarked skins to anyone that is the holder of a Fauna Dealer's Licence (Skins).

A Permit to Possess and Sell (brushtail possum) authorises the holder to possess and sell that species and products made with brushtail possum. However, the brushtail possums may only be taken under a separate permit, a Crop Protection Permit held by a land manager. Commercial Wallaby Hunter's Licences authorise the holder to take, possess and sell wallaby and products of wallaby.

Royalties

The Wildlife Regulations require royalty payments for wallaby and possum skins only. The Department now collects royalty payments upon export. Previously royalties were collected at the time of marking skins, a practice which no longer occurs.

2019 WILDLIFE REGULATIONS REVIEW

Royalty provisions do not easily accommodate the current trade in fur removed from skins. Instead, royalties are paid on the number of skins traded, or number of skins from which fur was removed. To assist in managing the latter, it has been determined that one kilogram of brushtail possum fur is equivalent to 15

skins. Royalty amounts are set by the Wildlife Regulations. Royalties for brushtail possum are currently \$0.30 per skin and wallaby is \$0.20 per skin. This rate has remained unchanged for at least 20 years.

RECREATIONAL HUNTING OF WILDLIFE (GAME LICENSING)

Game Licences authorise the hunting of partly protected wildlife during open seasons. Game Licence holders must complete 'returns' providing information detailing the numbers of animals taken for any previous year's licence. All hunters making an application to purchase a Game Licence are required to declare any relevant offence of which they have been convicted during the last five years. Game licence fees are subject to the *Fee Units Act 1997*.

FIREARMS REQUIREMENTS

The Wildlife Regulations set out several rules for the use of firearms or weapons for taking wildlife under a permit or licence. The minimum rifle calibre for hunting deer and the most appropriate gauge of shotgun for shooting birds are set by the Wildlife Regulations. Other rules specify the timing and location of firearm use, using or possessing a firearm fitted with a silencer, and restricting the use of lead shot.

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. Feedback has been received that setting take limits by regulation can be inflexible and reduces options to ensure sustainable management of some species. For example, the Department's only option to protect impacted muttonbird rookeries is to limit access by either reducing available dates for hunting or by not opening rookeries. This is known to inconvenience people that can only access a certain rookery or are unavailable during brief rookery openings.
2. The Wildlife Regulations prohibit the use of a light for the taking of wildlife without a permit. A light currently means any lamp or lantern or other device for providing illumination. Comments have been received that this does not include contemporary technology such as night vision equipment, and it has been suggested that this is outdated and needs to be updated to align with the intent of the regulations.
3. The Wildlife Regulations stipulate the minimum calibre rifle required for taking deer. It has been suggested that minimum muzzle energy would be more relevant. It is noted that a lower calibre projectile loses kinetic energy over a shorter distance making it less effective for killing at distances greater than 100 m.
4. Comments have been received that suggest that organised shoot requirements and prohibitions add red tape to already permitted shooters who may be protecting large crops as a group.
5. Opposing views have been provided about the level of reporting that should be required in relation to the 'taking' of wildlife.
6. The industry has evolved since the drafting of the regulations. Some feedback has indicated that the commercial use of fur is not adequately provided for by the Wildlife Regulations and the requirement to mark skins is not practicable or cost efficient.



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