

Protecting People, Places & Property

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 protecting people, places and property from damage caused by wildlife. This includes matters relating to crop protection and seal management.

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](#) is being put into action presently through a separate process.

CROP PROTECTION

Land managers may apply for permission to take some kinds of wildlife (protected and partly protected wildlife) under a Crop Protection Permit. The Wildlife Regulations state that Crop Protection Permits may only be issued when it is proper to do so to prevent the destruction of, or injury to, any stock or plants caused by the wildlife. The Department's Browsing Animal and Wildlife Services Management Officers provide information to land managers and visit farms to advise on techniques and materials proven to be effective in damage mitigation and to ensure Crop Protection Permits are granted appropriately.

SEAL MANAGEMENT

The Wildlife Regulations provide for the issue of permits allowing management of seals where it is necessary to do so to ensure the viability of a finfish farming or other commercial fishing activity. For finfish farming activities, issuing of Seal Deterrent Permits is guided by the *Seal Management Framework 2018*, which describes acceptable methods, procedures, requirements and options for managing fur seal interactions with finfish farming operations so as to minimise risks to seal welfare and to farm workers. The Framework

recognises that the relocation of trapped fur seals from finfish farming leases to other parts of the State for seal interaction management purposes is not allowed.

The Department provides an oversight, permitting and audit role to ensure requirements for wildlife exclusion from finfish pens are met and that seal management activities are conducted appropriately.

HUMAN SAFETY AND OTHER DAMAGE MITIGATION

In some instances, it is necessary to move, disturb or take wildlife for reasons of human safety such as removing runway obstructions at airports to enable aircraft to operate safely. Sometimes these actions are undertaken by pest control business operators, who are hired by business and domestic customers to manage impacts of wildlife around the State, often by taking wildlife. Any employee or contractor taking wildlife requires an individual permit.

FIREARMS REQUIREMENTS

The Wildlife Regulations contain rules about the use of firearms or weapons for taking wildlife under a permit or licence. Written permission is required for conducting organised shoots involving 15 or more people, possession or use of spotlights, and shooting from a vehicle. Other rules relate to the:

- minimum rifle calibre for taking deer and the most appropriate gauge of shotgun for shooting birds;
- timing and location of firearm use;
- using or possessing a firearm fitted with a silencer; and
- restrictions on 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. Concern has been raised that the Crop Protection Permit type may not currently provide broad enough protection for primary producers needing to mitigate indirect damage from wildlife, including to infrastructure supporting agricultural production.
2. Concern has been raised that there are some circumstances where the time involved in applying for and receiving a permit to take wildlife can prevent a landholder from being able to take effective action to mitigate or prevent damage resulting from the sudden arrival of some pest species.
3. Prohibiting silencers in the Wildlife Regulations duplicates prohibitions made under section 118 of the *Firearms Act 1996*.
4. 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. This does not include contemporary technology such as night vision equipment, so it has been suggested that this is outdated and needs to be updated to align with the intent of the regulations.
5. The Wildlife Regulations stipulate the minimum calibre rifle required for taking deer. It has been suggested that minimum muzzle energy would be more relevant.
6. There is concern that the Wildlife Regulations do not adequately support or regulate services provided by professional pest controllers. Fit for purpose licencing, minimum standards, insurances and appropriate qualifications for professional pest controllers may be beneficial.



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@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/wildlife-regulations-review