

Supporting Recreational Hunting



A MAJORITY LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WILL:

- Protect the Tasmanian tradition of recreational shooting and hunting
- Provide opportunities for regulated recreational hunting for deer in National Parks and reserves
- Support Quality Deer Management and assist landholders and farmers to manage browsing animals



Protect the Tasmanian way of life

Our pledge to recreational shooters and hunters

Recreational shooting and hunting is an important tradition and a way of life for many Tasmanian families.

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will always protect the right of Tasmanians to safely and responsibly go recreational shooting, and we will maintain the hunting system in Tasmania for game species including wild fallow deer, wallaby, duck, quail, muttonbird and pheasant.

Recreational hunters protecting national parks and reserves

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will support the positive role that responsible recreational hunters play in conservation and wildlife management in a safe, regulated way that ultimately benefits our natural areas.

We will provide opportunities for appropriately licensed and registered shooters to hunt wild fallow deer in National Parks, the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), Conservation Areas, Regional Reserves and/or Game Reserves.

The issuing of permits will be limited and hunting will only be available in designated areas, away from those areas frequented by visitors. A state-wide deer population census will inform demarcation areas and deer population management strategies.

We strongly support the Quality Deer Management (QDM) approach for maintaining wild fallow deer as a world class hunting resource in Tasmania. However deer can also cause unwanted damage to farmland and sensitive environmental areas outside of the traditional deer range, this includes the spread of deer into our Parks and reserves.

Allowing strictly controlled access for recreational hunters to the reserve estate to help control deer numbers, will reduce their impact on the environment, while providing an opportunity for hunters. Similar arrangements already exist in countries like New Zealand, and in other Australian states including Victoria.

This will complement coordinated control programs to be undertaken by professionals to manage satellite deer populations and deer impacting on areas with significant conservation values like the TWWHA.

Land management frameworks already allow hunting in some types of reserves and parts of the TWWHA. We will amend legislation to also allow for deer control programs in National Parks using the expertise and experience of recreational hunters.

Our Record

In November 2017 we released a comprehensive policy response to the Legislative Council Inquiry on Wild Fallow Deer in Tasmania. A copy is available from www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Our policy maintains a sensible balanced approach for managing wild fallow deer across hunting, agricultural, environmental and wider community interests.

Protect the Tasmanian way of life

Game and browsing animal management

A re-elected Hodgman majority Liberal Government will implement in-full our comprehensive policy response to the Legislative Council Inquiry into Wild Fallow Deer as we tabled in Parliament in November 2017, and deliver on our commitments to modernise the approach to managing deer, game and browsing animals in Tasmania.

We will:

- ✓ In consultation with a new Tasmanian Game Council and stakeholders, formulate a clear and contemporary statement articulating Quality Deer Management (QDM) as the basis for the future management of wild fallow deer in Tasmania.
- ✓ Establish a Tasmanian Game Council to provide advice to the Minister on delivering contemporary and effective QDM in Tasmania, hunting and game management, browsing animal management and deer farming matters.
- ✓ Establish a new Game Services Tasmania within DPIPW to support landholders, farmers and hunters to effectively manage deer and all issues relating to game and browsing animals. Game Services Tasmania will have a strong policy and functional alignment to primary industries, our supporting our AgriFood Plan and target to grow the annual farm gate value of agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050.
- ✓ Undertake a comprehensive state-wide census of wild fallow deer in Tasmania and DPIPW will work with research partners on a complementary project that will assess the distribution and numbers of wild fallow deer in parts of the TWWHA.
- ✓ Conduct an overarching review of the effectiveness of deer management strategies five years from the first state-wide census. Inherent in any review will be an appropriate assessment of the wild fallow deer population at that time.
- ✓ Implement 5 year crop protection permits for deer and explore further opportunities to support landholders to manage deer by streamlining or reducing red tape.
- ✓ Work with deer farmers and other stakeholders to support farmed deer industry development including, the branding and marketing of farmed deer products, potential to expand and facilitate local processing opportunities, and supply chain product integrity.
- ✓ Not support amending crop protection permits to allow for commercialisation of wild deer for human consumption or pet food market.



Protect the Tasmanian way of life

- ✓ Consider a regulated approach, including specific purpose permits, whereby deer farmers and landholders have the opportunity to develop niche value-adding businesses from wild deer products. The new Tasmanian Game Council will be requested to provide advice on the feasibility of conducting a limited fixed-term trial which would evaluate the potential for deer farmers and landholders to develop niche value-adding business opportunities to supply wild deer products for the regulated food product or restaurant trade.
- ✓ By the end of 2019 undertake the statutory review of the *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* and the *Wildlife (Deer Farming) Regulations 2010* to ensure there is a contemporary and responsive framework for wild deer management and the development of the farm deer industry in Tasmania.
- ✓ Maintain fawning season arrangements for recreational hunting within the traditional deer range.

Cost

Our Supporting Recreational Hunting policy will be funded from existing resources.

Labor Green Record

A vote for Labor is a vote for a Labor-Green minority government. The Greens simply cannot be trusted. They will restrict hunting and they are no friends of law abiding firearm owners.

When last in Government the Labor-Greens made it harder for farmers to control browsing animals and banned the use of 1080 as one of the legitimate control tools; whereas the Liberal Government will always protect the rights of hunters, shooters and farmers.