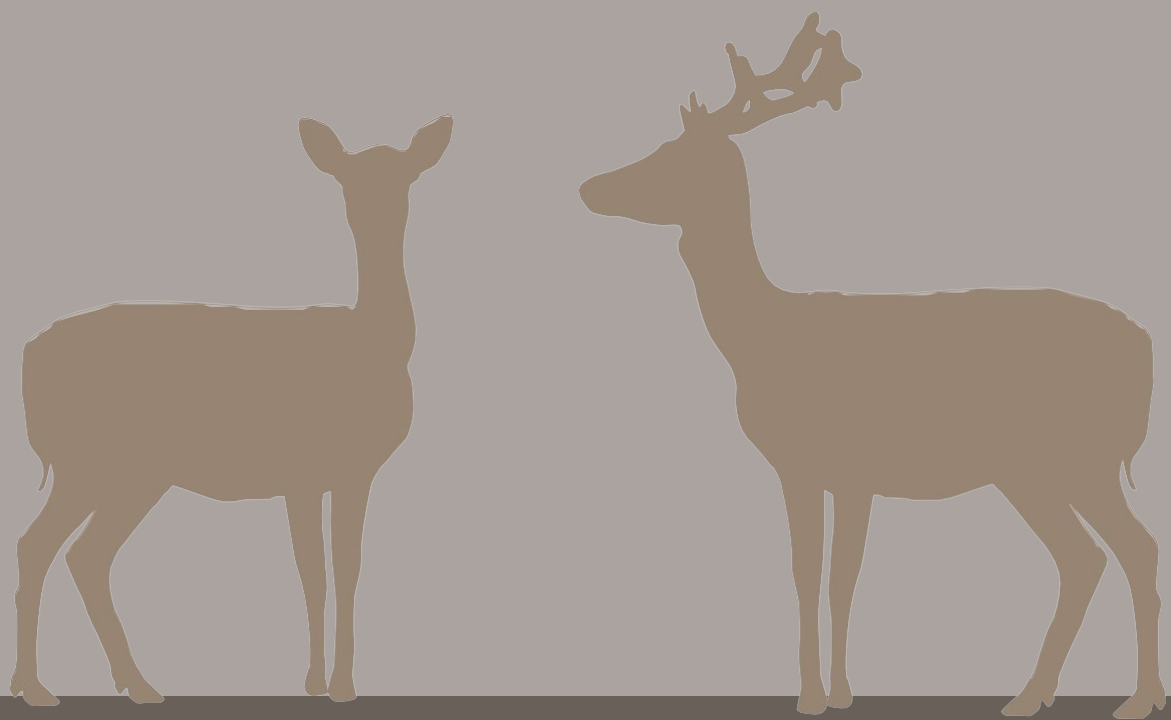


Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Implementation Strategy 2022-27

Public Release - September 2022



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Purpose of this Implementation Strategy

The *Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan 2022-2027* (the Management Plan), established clear goals and management objectives for wild fallow deer in Tasmania over the next five years.

The Management Plan established four contemporary management objectives to manage the commercial (including to agricultural and forestry businesses), environmental and public safety impacts associated with deer populations in Tasmania.

Management objective 1:

Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state whilst maintaining a traditional and sustainable hunting resource

Management objective 2:

Empower farmers, foresters, and other land managers to directly manage deer and to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives

Management objective 3:

Continue to provide evidence-based deer management

Management objective 4:

Improve community involvement, education, and awareness of deer management

This Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan Implementation Strategy (Implementation Strategy) establishes a five-year work program to progress the four management objectives outlined in the Management Plan. The Implementation Strategy identifies key initiatives to be delivered under the Management Plan and steps through actions and deliverables to be completed by lead organisations and partners.

Working in Partnership

The actions within the Implementation Strategy cannot be achieved by government alone. This Implementation Strategy sets out how government, land managers, stakeholders and the community can work together to manage deer in Tasmania. The Implementation Strategy will be led by Game Services Tasmania (GST) within the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas).

The Tasmanian Game Council (TGC), as a specialist advisory body providing advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Water and the Tasmanian Government on game and browsing animal management and hunting in Tasmania, will provide advice on various implementation matters as appropriate. The TGC has within its Terms of Reference the review of browsing wildlife management plans and projects, which includes this Implementation Strategy.

Engagement with other stakeholders such as land managers, local government, peak bodies and associations and the broader community will also be critical.

It is proposed that specialist working groups will be established to support the delivery of some actions within the Implementation Strategy. Membership of working groups will be designed to ensure that the appropriate skills across government, land managers (public and private), hunters, community and researchers are present.

Resourcing

The Tasmanian Government has provided \$2 million in funding over four years until the end of financial year 2025-26 to implement initiatives within the Implementation Strategy. This funding will support a range of implementation activities including working with farmers, foresters and hunters to increase the take-up of property-based game management plans, supporting industry regulation and development for commercial deer farming, wildlife population monitoring activities, and peri-urban deer management.

The Australian Government has provided \$400 000 in funding to support a project to eradicate deer from the Walls of Jerusalem National Park. To assist with the control of peri-urban deer the Australian Government has also provided \$450 000 over three years to support this activity.

The Implementation Strategy will also be supported by existing resources within NRE Tas.

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

The principles of adaptive management and continuous improvement will be applied to the roll out of all actions within the Implementation Strategy,

It is acknowledged by stakeholders that an accurate understanding of the deer population through time is critical to evaluating the success of the Implementation Strategy.

Developing a framework

A monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework will be developed to measure the effectiveness of the Implementation Strategy towards delivering the management objectives.

Monitoring the deer population

Data generated by the deer population monitoring actions outlined in the Implementation Strategy will be used to annually report on deer geographic distribution and population trends.

It is proposed that a monitoring working group will be initiated to ensure that the overall monitoring program is delivering the outputs required to inform decision-making.

Annual Review

An annual review of the effectiveness of policies and management tools outlined in the Plan will be undertaken by NRE Tas. Input into the review will be provided by the TGC as well as key peak bodies and associations. The review will incorporate both qualitative and quantitative data and recognise management impacts on a species such as wild deer accrue slowly. Where specific changes to the Implementation Strategy are recommended then these can be incorporated as part of continuous improvement and adaptive management. NRE Tas will also ensure that there are processes to provide for appropriate stakeholder input in the event that specific implementation actions need to be reviewed or updated.

Management objective 1

Effectively manage the impacts of wild fallow deer throughout the state whilst maintaining a traditional and sustainable hunting resource

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Lead & Partners ¹	Status	Indicative completion date
1. Establish three distinct deer management zones	1.1 Develop and implement deer management zone map	1.1.1 Deer management zones publicly viewable at cadastral level	GST <i>Lands Tasmania</i>	Underway	Sept 2022
	1.2 Raise awareness of deer management zones	1.2.1 Information on the management objectives and permits available for each zone available on the NRE Tas website and at public events including AgFest and BushFest	GST	Planned	Oct 2022
		1.2.2 Develop appropriate communications and extension material for stakeholders	NRE Tas	Planned	Oct 2022
2. Undertake research trials to improve the efficiency of existing deer management and investigate new management tools or control methods, ensuring consideration of animal welfare	2.1 Identify research priorities by identifying knowledge gaps	2.1.1 Annual priority research plan	Parks and Wildlife Services (PWS), GST <i>Research Institutions</i> <i>Other jurisdictions</i>	Planned	Dec 2027
		2.1.2 Animal Ethics approvals			
	2.2 Evaluate aerial and ground-based deer management tools	2.2.1 Evaluation report on aerial and ground-based management tools under Tasmanian conditions			
	2.3 Trials established for emerging and innovative options for management of deer	2.3.1 Adoption of appropriate deer control methods for Tasmania			

¹ Partners - refers to likely or potential entities who may have an involvement in specific actions or projects. It is not designed to be exhaustive or definitive as partners may be identified or refined as specific projects are developed.

impacts	2.4 Work with other states research and extension organisations to share knowledge about deer management and control, improve practices and co-invest in research and development	2.4.1 Collaborative partnerships developed with appropriate states and organisations			
3. Eradication of deer from world heritage areas and national parks	3.1 Implement pilot program for aerial shooting in Walls of Jerusalem National Park	3.1.1 Evaluation and report of aerial deer management tools under Tasmanian conditions	PWS <i>Australian Government, Department of Regional New South Wales</i>	Planned	2025
	3.2 Implement a pilot partnership with hunting organisations for ground shooting associated with the program to control deer in Walls of Jerusalem National Park	3.2.1 Evaluation of ground shooting options to assist in the control of deer from world heritage areas and national parks	PWS <i>Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee (TDAC), Australian Deer Association (ADA), Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) GST</i>	Underway	
	3.3 If required develop a standard deer management plan for Tasmanian world heritage areas and national parks	3.3.1 Review outcomes of aerial and ground shooting trials in the Walls of Jerusalem and incorporate results into future control plans as required.	PWS <i>TDAC, ADA and SSAA</i>	Planned	Dec 2024

		3.3.2 Deer management plans in place for priority world heritage areas and national parks as required.	PWS	Planned	
	3.4 Support opportunities to increase the involvement of recreational hunters in control programs on public land	3.4.1 Development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TDAC, ADA and SSAA	PWS TDAC, ADA, SSAA	Underway	Nov 2022
		3.4.2 Investigate the option of an online map to identify public land where hunting is permissible	PWS, GST Other public land managers	Planned	Dec 2023
4. Eradication of deer from peri-urban areas	4.1 Using monitoring develop an understanding of peri-urban deer populations	4.1.1 Population trend for deer established in priority peri-urban areas	GST <i>Research Institutions, Other jurisdictions</i>	Planned	Ongoing
	4.2 Gather information on scale of deer hazards in peri-urban areas	4.2.1 Risk register established for deer hazards in peri-urban areas	GST local councils	Planned	Ongoing
	4.3 Evaluation of wild deer management strategies in Tasmania and mainland Australia peri-urban areas	4.3.1 Evaluation report on management tools for deer in peri-urban areas	GST <i>Commonwealth National Deer Management Coordinator</i>	Planned	Dec 2027
	4.4 Develop and promote a Ground Shooting Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for deer control in peri-urban areas	4.4.1 Ground Shooting Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for deer control in peri-urban areas in place	PWS GST Environment, Heritage and Land <i>Tasmania Police (TasPol)</i>	Planned	TBC

	4.5 Work with appropriate experts, including the National Deer Coordinator on development communications programs to raise awareness of deer in peri-urban areas	4.5.1 Communications programs developed and launched as appropriate	GST <i>Commonwealth National Deer Management Coordinator</i>	Planned	Sept 2022 for pilot in Tasmania
	4.6 Work with LGA's in Tasmania to undertake management of deer in peri-urban areas	4.6.1 Develop appropriate supporting material (eg SOPs etc) to assist local councils	GST local councils <i>Local Government Association of Tasmania</i>	Planned	Dec 2025
	4.7 Implement the Launceston region peri-urban deer management project	4.7.1 Liaise with target LGAs to obtain their support for, and participation in, elements of the project	GST <i>West Tamar Council</i> <i>Commonwealth National Deer Management Coordinator</i>	Planned	Dec 2024
		4.7.2 Undertake community forums in the West Tamar Local Government Area (LGA) to drive stakeholder education and awareness regarding the need for deer control in peri-urban areas and seek opportunities for community participation		Planned	Dec 2024
		4.7.3 Identify locations to undertake trial control operations, initially in the Legana/North Riverside area of the West Tamar LGA and undertake trial control operations		Planned	Dec 2024
	4.8 Implement the King Island region deer management project	4.8.1 Liaise with the King Island Council to obtain its support for, and participation in, elements of the project	GST <i>King Island Council, King</i>	Planned	Dec 2023

		4.8.2 Undertake community forums on King Island to drive stakeholder education and awareness regarding the need for deer control in peri-urban areas and seek opportunities for community participation	<i>Island NRM Commonwealth National Deer Management Coordinator</i>	Underway	Oct 2022 and as required to 2025
		4.8.3 Identify locations to undertake trial control operations		Planned	Dec 2024
5. Prevent the establishment of new deer populations	5.1 Implementation of the Nature Conservation (Deer Farming) Regulations 2022	5.1.1. Release and implement regulations that address risk of farm deer escapes establishing satellite populations	GST	Regulations released Implementation ongoing	Ongoing
		5.1.2 Establish and implement the deer farm licensing system	EHL GST	Underway	Dec 2022
		5.1.3 Establish an education and compliance program for the management of deer farms	GST NRE Tas	Planned	Nov 2022
		5.1.4 Publish education material to reinforce that the release and translocation of deer is illegal.	GST NRE Tas	Planned	Nov 2022

Management objective 2

Empower farmers, foresters, and other land managers to directly manage deer and to work collaboratively with hunters to achieve tailored deer management objectives

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Lead Entity & Partners	Status	Indicative completion date
6. Enable land managers to control deer with greater flexibility	6.1 Establish take conditions for property protection permits consistent with deer management zone	6.1.1 Limited term property protection permit / special permit established for Zone 1	GST	Underway	September 2022
		6.1.2 Review current property protection permits issued for Zones 2 and 3	GST EHL	Planned	2023
	6.2 Establish the Property Based Wildlife Management Plan (PBWMP) system	6.2.1 PBWMP Officer employed and resourced to support system development	GST	Underway	November 2022
		6.2.2 PBWMP system developed and promoted to land managers	GST Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) & TDAC/ADA Land Managers	Planned	March 2023 Ongoing
		6.2.3 PBWMPs promoted with a focus on Zone 1 properties	Private land managers GST	Planned	Ongoing
		6.2.4 PBWMPs promoted with a focus on Zone 2 & 3 properties	Private land managers GST		Ongoing

	6.3 Develop a Wildlife Action Plan	6.3.1 Wildlife Action Plan completed	TFGA GST	Underway	December 2023
	6.4 Development of region-specific deer management plans	6.4.1 Develop regional management plans as prioritised by results from deer population monitoring studies (note Action 4.8 with regards to King Island).	GST Kind Island Council King Island NRM	Underway	July 2023
7. Ensure that compliance activities are effective and efficient	7.1 Continue to ensure that compliance and enforcement approaches are contemporary and best practice	7.1.1 Ensure licensing is efficient and fit for purpose	GST EHL <i>TasPol</i>	Planned	June 2024
		7.1.2 Work within NRE Tas to ensure compliance and enforcement activities regarding wildlife are contemporary			
	7.2 Investigate and evaluate innovative technologies to support compliance	7.2.1 Report on potential technology including e-tags to support compliance and enforcement	GST EHL <i>TasPol</i> TGC PWS	Planned	TBC

Management objective 3

Continue to provide evidence-based deer management

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Lead Entity & Partners	Status	Indicative completion date
8. Improve knowledge of current deer distribution and abundance	8.1 Coordination and implementation of surveillance and monitoring to quantify current distribution and abundance and identify new wild deer populations	8.1.1 Aerial survey	GST EHL	Planned	September 2024
		8.1.2 Camera trapping program completed and results incorporated into annual deer distribution and abundance report	GST	Underway	March 2024
		8.1.3 Annual review of data from annual hunting and property protection take returns	GST	Underway	December 22, 23, 24, 25,
		8.1.4 Continue spotlighting surveys	GST	Underway	Ongoing
		8.1.5 Half yearly Deer Scan reports completed	GST	Underway	Ongoing
		8.1.6 Continue to implement contemporary monitoring systems	EHL NRE Tas	Planned	TBC
		8.1.7 Annual deer distribution and abundance report	NRE Tas	Planned	TBC
9. Enhance knowledge and best practice management for populations monitoring	9.1 Evaluate emerging population monitoring technologies	9.1.1 Literature review undertaken	NRE Tas TGC	Planned	Dec 2024
		9.2.1 Trials conducted of new technologies to determine relevance to Tasmania	<i>Other state departments</i>	Planned	Dec 2025

10. Improve knowledge of the role of wild deer in farm biosecurity	10.1 Investigate the biosecurity risks to domestic livestock and potential impacts on cultivated plants	10.1.1 Review wild fallow deer as transmission agents of diseases important to domestic livestock and general health of wild deer herd as measured by investigation of pathology samples submitted by community members	Biosecurity Tasmania (BT) GST	Planned	TBC
		10.1.2 Evaluation of biosecurity risks posed by deer in containing animal health diseases such as foot and mouth disease	BT GST	Planned	TBC
		10.1.3 Work with farming and hunting and shooting peak bodies to ensure best practice biosecurity practices are communicated and understood by industry and the community	BT GST <i>TFGA and TDAC</i>	Planned	TBC
11. Quantify the environmental, social and economic value (including costs and benefits) of deer in Tasmania.	11.1 Analyse the the environmental, social and economic value of deer in Tasmania	11.1.1 Report quantifying the environmental, social and economic value of deer in Tasmania	NRE Tas <i>TFGA and TDAC Research institutions; land managers; Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences</i>	Planned	Aug 2024
		11.1.2 Develop appropriate media material to communicate the report findings	NRE Tas TFGA TGC	Planned	Dec 2024

Management objective 4

Improve community involvement, education, and awareness of deer management

Initiative	Action	Deliverable	Lead Entity & Partners	Status	Indicative completion date					
12. Community Engagement	12.1 Annual fora for land managers and other key stakeholders to share information to inform planning and management activities	12.1.1 Annual forum on deer distribution and abundance and the effectiveness of current control programs	GST	Underway	December 2022					
		12.1.2 Annual forum of peri-urban deer population, risks and control programs	GST	Planned	March 2023					
	12.2 Community awareness activities at key events	12.2.1 Delivery of extension messages Agfest and BushFest	GST TGC TFGA	Underway	Ongoing					
						12.3 Development of appropriate stakeholder communication tools	12.3.1 Publication of Game Tracks	GST NRE Tas	Planned	Underway Dec 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
						12.3.2 Review and upgrade of NRE Tas' website	GST NRE Tas	Planned	Ongoing	
		12.3.3 General community information developed on deer management issues in Tasmania	GST NRE Tas TFGA and TDAC	Planned	Ongoing					

	12.4 Development of community education and engagement strategy focusing on managing satellite and peri-urban populations	12.4.1 Information package developed for peri-urban deer	NRE Tas LGAT	Planned	Dec 2025
13. Reducing antisocial behaviour	13.1 Development of communication strategy for improving antisocial behaviour based on contemporary compliance principles	13.1.1 Communications strategy designed to minimise antisocial behaviour	NRE Tas <i>TasPol</i> TDAC, ADA, SSAA	Planned	June 2024
	13.2 Development of education programs to improve antisocial behaviour	13.2.1 Education program designed to minimise antisocial behaviour	EHL GST NRE Tas TDAC, ADA, SSAA	Planned	Dec 2022
	13.3 Contemporary and effective enforcement activities	13.3.1 Review of patterns of unlawful activity to identify high priority activities and primary target audience.	NRE Tas <i>TasPol</i> TDAC, ADA, SSAA	Planned	Sept 2024
		13.3.2 Review contemporary compliance and enforcement technology and implement as appropriate	GST <i>TasPol</i> TDAC, ADA, SSAA	Planned	Sept 2024
	14. Commercial use of wild shot deer	14.1 Identify opportunities and barriers to the use and sale of wild shot deer	14.1.1 Implement limited fixed-term trial for Wild-shot Deer	GST BT Land managers Commercial sector	Planned
14.2 Identify appropriate strategies and initiatives to support the ongoing deer farming industry in Tasmania		14.2.1 Industry development support to deer farmers	Department of State Growth Tasmanian Deer Farmers Council	Planned	March 2023

15. Provide leadership and coordination through strategic partnerships	15.1 Appropriate partnership and project agreements in place to support deer management	15.1.1 MoU in place with TDAC, ADA and SSAA	GST PWS	Planned	Ongoing
		15.1.2 Agree project plans in place with relevant LGAs			
		15.1.3 Partnerships established with other jurisdictions as appropriate			
		15.1.4 Agreements in place with research organisations as appropriate			

Acronyms

ADA	Australian Deer Association
BT	Biosecurity Tasmania – A Division of NRE Tas
EHL	Environment, Heritage and Land – A Division of NRE Tas
GST	Game Services Tasmania
LGA	Local Government Area
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NRE Tas	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tas
PBWMP	Property Based Wildlife Management Plan
PWS	Parks and Wildlife Service – A Division of NRE Tas
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TasPol	Tasmania Police
TDAC	Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee
TFGA	Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
TGC	Tasmanian Game Council
LGA	Local Government Areas
SSAA	Sporting Shooters Association of Australia