

# Checklist for Private Property Deer Control in Nillumbik

Photo credit: FYXO

The following are some recommended actions for a deer control program that is well-planned, informed, legal, coordinated and communicated with neighbours.

## Deer Controller Details

- Names of all controllers to undertake deer control on the property have been provided to the landholder
- All required licences and permits have been sighted and confirmed as current.
- Landholder is satisfied that the controllers are sufficiently qualified with relevant experience.

Details on eligibility, experience, permits and licences can be found in the *Fact Sheet – Information on Nillumbik Community Deer Directory Control Service Providers*

## Public Place Permits

- The District Firearms Officer has advised whether the property requires a Public Place Permit for firearm use.
- The landholder has verified that the controller has a current Public Place Permit (if required)
- A copy of the Shoot Plan has been provided to the DFO (if requested, or if a Public Place Permit requires this)

## Public Liability Insurance

- The controller has Public Liability Insurance of > \$20 million (recommended), specifically listing hunting, firearm use or relevant, either personally or through a hunting / deer organisation etc.

*Sporting Shooters Association Australia (SSAA) and Australian Deer Association (ADA) club insurances cover their members when controlling deer on a recreational / volunteer basis only.*

*Club Insurance does not cover a volunteer deer controller if they are paid or reimbursed for expenses incurred as a result of the deer control (e.g. ammunition costs).*

## Landholder Authorisation

- The landholder has signed a Landholder Agreement for the Unprotection of Deer (GIC Order) or provided other written approval.
- The controller will carry this authorisation with them when undertaking control.

## Pre-Planning

- The deer controller has visited the property during daylight hours to inspect the layout and has noted any risks
- The deer controller has undertaken a Risk Assessment (Safe Work Method - SWM - or Job Safety Analysis - JSA) specifically for the property.
- The controller has provided the landholder with a shoot plan which includes details of the agreed work areas, the safe shoot zones and direction of shooting, and has noted the location of houses, stock and/or hazards.

## Timing of Works

Agreement has been reached on:



- how often the deer controller will visit – weekly, monthly, yearly, or on an on-call basis
- the days and hours of work operations. e.g. weekdays only, works to finish at 11pm etc.
- the actual date/s that the controller plans to attend the property

## Control Activities

- Control methods have been discussed and agreed upon – e.g. static hide, stalking on foot, spotlighting from vehicle etc

## Neighbours Contacted

- The controller has spoken to all immediate neighbours to explain the proposed activities.
- Neighbour property boundaries have been confirmed and the presence and location of stock, horses etc. has been noted.
- Contact details of neighbours have been obtained to enable advance notification of control works (refer to the *Neighbour Notification Details Template*).
- Neighbours have been provided with the relevant contact details for the controller and property owner.

## Notifications

- Agreement has been reached as to who will be responsible for notifying neighbours
- Notification methods and timeframes for advance notification of works (e.g. 24 hours' notice, by

group text message) have been agreed between the landholder, neighbours and controller.

- All neighbours have been notified that deer control will be undertaken, allowing enough time for stock or pets to be moved if required.
- The District Firearms Officer or local Victoria Police Station has been notified that deer control is to be undertaken (providing the controller name, control address/es, dates and times)

## Carcass Management

- Management of deer remains has been agreed. e.g. left in situ; selected cuts (legs and back-straps etc.) to be taken by controller; whole animal or selected cuts to be provided to the landholder; whole carcass to be removed; landholder to provide a pit on site for burial; or other option.

## Cost and/or Rebate

Agreement has been reached on:

- the cost to the landholder for the service – e.g. hourly rate, rate per deer/kg, free
- whether any rebate will be paid to landholder, if the controller is commercially harvesting deer and what this rebate rate will be
- when payments and rebates will be made.

## Report Results

- Agreement has been reached as to who will report results to Council, including time of arrival and departure from site, and number of deer dispatched and sighted (species, age, and gender) to monitoring control success.

## Defined Objectives

The landholder has defined control goals:

- Intensive cull to quickly remove many deer (Selecting a professional controller or harvester with the ability to do this may be a good option)
- 'Maintenance' shoots to remove small numbers of deer where populations have already been reduced. (These works may be suited to volunteer hunters unable to commercially harvest and where no Public place Permit is required)
- Occasional control to remove small numbers of deer (Using recreational hunters in non-populous areas may be an option)

## Disclaimer

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