

Registering for the Nillumbik Community Deer Directory

The Deer Directory is designed to help landholders, seeking to reduce deer impacts, to find volunteer or professional deer management services. The Directory is open to pest controllers, fencing contractors, land management advisors, deer monitoring (drones etc) and other relevant services. This document outlines qualities and requirements for Directory deer control services.

Eligibility

The Directory is open to responsible, ethical, individuals or organisations whose objectives align with those of Council and who meet any essential criteria listed below.

All those applying to be listed on the Directory must support Council's goal to **reduce the impact and distribution of deer in Nillumbik**.

Application Process



The Directory's Online Application Form requires that applicants list their relevant licences, accreditations and permits; indicate their level of deer control experience; and provide a description of the services offered and costs.

This information will not be verified by Council nor will it be used to determine eligibility for inclusion – except for mandatory requirements such as a Firearms Licence. The information is intended to help landholders select the best provider for their property and situation.

Licences, permits & equipment

Controllers will need to indicate whether they have:

- A valid firearms licence and a firearm as per the approved calibres set out in the GIC Order Schedule.
- A game hunting licence - for recreational hunting on private land (daytime)

Optional recommended or beneficial equipment:

- Suitable communications for work site e.g. mobile phone, UHF, satellite phone, SPOT device etc
- Field storage chillers and a way to transport carcasses (for harvesting)
- Silencer / Suppressor Permit issued by Victoria Police – recommended for peri-urban areas

Legislative responsibilities

All Nillumbik Deer Directory deer controllers must comply with relevant legislation including the *Firearms Act 1996*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and the *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting*.

The Standard Operating Procedure DEE001: Ground Shooting of Feral Deer should also be used as a resource. (<https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkit-resource/ground-shooting-of-feral-deer>)

Experience and Training

Controllers will need to indicate whether they have:

- relevant experience controlling deer in peri-urban and rural areas on private land,
- current accreditation through the
 - Sporting Shooter Association of Australia's Conservation Pest Management (CPM) program,
 - or the Australian Deer Association's Deer Management Program
- completed competency training courses such as *Use Firearms to Humanely Destroy Animals* (AHCPM304)
- evidence of shooting proficiency using required high calibre firearms for deer culling
- demonstrable success in control of deer, with a high rate of recovery versus shots fired. Min 80%

Desirable:



- experience using suppressors / silencers
- thermal imaging, telescopic sights and/or night vision

Public Liability Insurance

Controllers will need to indicate whether they:

- have Public Liability Insurance (listing hunting, or firearm use) of >\$20 million is required, or
- are a member of a club (e.g. SSAA or ADA) and are covered by the club's insurance

NB - SSAA and ADA club member insurances only cover volunteer hunters – any payment, including reimbursement of costs, void cover by these insurances.

Working conditions

Controllers should have relevant OH&S policies and procedures in place

Controllers understand that friends or subcontractors are not to be engaged or brought onto a property without prior consent of the landholder or group's delegate.

Harvesting

Controllers will need to indicate whether they have:

- experience in harvesting deer for commercial use
- current accreditation for wild game field harvesting - e.g. AMPG306 - *Use Firearms to Harvest Wild Game* - through a Registered Training Organisation.

Deer control with land managers

Controllers will need to indicate whether they:

- can provide references from private land managers who have engaged them for deer control

It is expected that controllers will adhere to any land managers' biosecurity requirements and will ensure that the health and safety of livestock is not impacted by deer control operations.



Deer controllers, whether volunteer or professional, are listed on this Deer Directory to offer specialized services for private landholders.

The Directory is not intended to provide hunters with local recreational game hunting opportunities on private land.

Service providers should be able to demonstrate to the landholder that they are committed to working for them, including responding in a timely fashion to reports of deer sightings where possible.

Data collection and reporting

Controllers should supply Council - either directly or via the landholder - with information about deer control works, including dates, property addresses, deer sightings and number of deer culled/harvested. This can be provided to Council via FeralScan.

Removal from Directory

Should Council receive a complaint about a Directory member and the complaint is verified, the member may be removed from the Database.

Disclaimer

Nillumbik Shire Council will not endorse nor nominate any of the listed harvesters or controllers listed on the Deer Directory.

It is the responsibility of each land manager or their nominated representative to appoint a service provider.

Nillumbik Council accepts no responsibility for losses, damages, costs and other consequences resulting directly or indirectly from using this directory or any information or material available from it.

