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Mr Barry Howlett
Australian Deer Association
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Revised feral deer policy and new feral pig policy for South Australia

Dear Barry,

Thank you for your organisation's valuable input during the revision of the feral deer policy and/or development of the feral pig policy for South Australia, which were led by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA).

I am writing to advise you that the Minister for Environment and Water has approved the policies, and the associated declarations, under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*. The policies are considered to be interim because they are expected to transition to the Landscape South Australia Act. This transition will include minor revisions to regulations on the confinement of deer and pigs.

The policies are available on the PIRSA website, and are summarised below.

Feral deer policy

The policy requires that land managers cull all feral deer and requires deer farmers to prevent their deer escaping. The policy includes the following specific amendments:

- Landholders to destroy all feral deer on their properties.
- Prohibition on the movement, possession and sale of feral deer.
- Domestic deer (over 12 months of age) must have ear tags, which will allow escaped deer to be identified to provide early warning of faulty fences.
- Boundary fences of new deer farms (first registered with PIRSA after 1 April 2019) must meet the new fencing standards in the new Chief Officer's Determination under Regulation 26(2) of the *Natural Resources Management (General) Regulations 2005*.

Provisions in the policy that have not changed include:

- Deer must not be released.

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- Deer keepers must comply with instructions of authorised officers.
- Boundary fences that confine domestic deer will be audited every 2 years.

There are no changes to the existing declarations for deer on Kangaroo Island nor other offshore islands, which include:

- Prohibition on the movement, possession and sale of deer (except by permit),
- Requirement to notify NRM boards of any feral deer.
- Require landowners to destroy feral deer on their properties.

Illegal hunting is a major issue for some landholders. Laws associated with illegal hunting remain in place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972, National Parks and Wildlife (Hunting) Regulations (2011) and the Firearms Act.

Feral pig policy

The policy includes measures to reduce feral populations, to prevent the establishment of new populations.

The new feral pig policy includes:

- Requirement for land managers to destroy all feral pigs on their properties.
- Prohibition on movement, possession and sale of feral pigs (excludes domestic pigs).
- Requirement to notify NRM boards of feral pigs (except Kangaroo Island, where numbers are too high to justify this requirement).
- Domestic pigs must be confined, or destroyed if they escape.

Provisions in the policy that have not changed include:

- Pigs must not be released.
- Domestic pig keepers must comply with instructions of authorised officers to keep pigs confined.

The new policy specifies fencing standards for outdoor enclosures, which do not confine pigs. These standards will be included in the regulations of the Landscape SA Act.

Please contact Dr Annelise Wiebkin [REDACTED] if you have questions on the policies, or contact the relevant NRM Board for advice on feral pig control.

Yours sincerely,



Dr John Virtue
General Manager - Strategy, Policy & Invasive Species