

23D100

09 August 2023

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Per email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au;



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Association Inc**
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Dear Minister,

Re: South Australian Feral Deer Eradication

We write in support of the coordinated South Australian Feral Deer Eradication program which has been established through a partnership bringing together several Landscape Boards, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Department of Environment and Water, Forestry SA and local landholders.

Feral deer remain a significant concern for dairy farmers, particularly on both the Limestone Coast and Fleurieu Peninsula.

Independent economic analysis by BDO Econsearch has estimated that feral deer are having a \$3.2 million impact annually on the SA Dairy industry through targeting high value crops, particularly irrigated pastures, which dairy producers rely on to feed their livestock through summer. Many producers have reported that feral deer also make it impossible to spell a pasture, instead grazing irrigated pastures down to the ground, rendering them useless for livestock. Feral deer also cause significant damage to infrastructure as deer push through livestock fencing twice each day, on their way to and from dairy pastures, weakening and damaging the fencing.

Feral deer pose a great biosecurity risk to dairy cattle as the species is capable of spreading many of the diseases that impact dairy cattle. The ability of feral deer to range over a large area and intersect with many dairy and beef herds only heightens this risk.

The dairy industry operates outside of daylight areas with morning milkings often requiring staff to be on hand in the early hours of the morning. The presence of populations of feral deer is a known cause of many road incidence as the deer have little regard for traffic and workers are required to travel to the dairy prior to milking.

The South Australian Dairyfarmers is pleased to see the efforts of the coordinated programs across the state however we recognise that there is still a lot to be done and encourage the continued collaboration of all parties. The management and eradication of feral deer is of critical importance.

Yours sincerely



Robert Brokenshire
President

CC: Hon. Dr Susan Close, Deputy Premier and Minister for Climate, Environment and Water
Dr. Penny Schulz, Chair Limestone Coast Landscape Board
David Greenhough, Chair Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board