



29.6.21

To: Dr. Deborah Peterson
Chairperson
Independent Review of Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975

Dear Dr. Peterson

Submission into the Review of the Wildlife Act 1975

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Review of the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975.

My submission relates to the status of deer under the Act. We moved onto a small hobby farm in Belgrave South in 1986 for the experience of Australian fauna and flora. It is only over the last 4 to 5 years that we have experienced increasing damage by feral deer on our property, now regularly ring barking young native trees, "pruning" our orchard trees to the height of a deer's reach and demolishing flower beds and fences.

We can't ask a hunter to control deer on our property because we never know the time when they come from neighboring properties which border on to the Muddy Creek bush land where we can regularly observe a group of about 12 deer. They have already destroyed large parts of the Muddy Creek bed and edges.

Our neighbours don't like hunters on their property because they have race horses and they don't worry about the deer.

At night time we had numerous near misses with deer on our road, a great concern for our road safety!

The increasing deer population in our suburb has reached an unacceptable level and I urge you to reconsider the totally inappropriate status of deer as protected game animal but to treat feral deer as a pest so that every landholder has an obligation to remove deer from their property.

