



**Christmas
Hills
Landcare
Group**

Christmas Hills Landcare Group
P.O. Box 274 Yarra Glen 3775

Website: <http://portphillipwesternport.landcarevic.org.au/Christmashills>
ABN: 24 281 456 670

Member: Landcare Victoria Inc [REDACTED]

28 June 2021

Chair - Dr Deborah Peterson
Wildlife Act 1975 Review Panel
Department Environment Land Water Planning

WILDLIFE ACT 1975 REVIEW SUBMISSION

Dear Dr Peterson

The Christmas Hills Landcare Group welcomes the Wildlife Act 1975 Review and encourages the strengthening of the Act to be more effective in protecting our wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The Christmas Hills Landcare Group currently has 91 financial adult members managing 50 private properties covering 715 hectares in the Nillumbik and Yarra Ranges shires. The position taken in this submission was tested with the membership prior to submission and received unanimous support.

Feral Deer

The members of the Christmas Hills Landcare Group have observed the steady increase in feral deer numbers in and around Christmas Hills, and the increasing impact on the local remnant vegetation and wildlife habitat that we are seeking to care for. The predominant species observed is Sambar Deer.

The CHLG membership considers it to be inappropriate that feral deer and other introduced species be afforded any form of protection under a Wildlife Act, and therefore strongly support removal of all introduced species currently afforded protection under the Act.

Further to this, the CHLG membership strongly supports the view that feral deer should be declared pest animals in Victoria.

Regards

Chair, CHLG, on behalf of the membership of the Christmas Hills Landcare Group.