

17th June 2021

Independent Review Board of Victoria's Wildlife Act 1975

My name is Dejan Zmejkoski and I live on 40 acres in Victoria. I would urge the Review Board to define protected wildlife as flora and fauna that is indigenous to Australia. Our Wildlife Act was drawn up in an attempt to protect native wildlife, it is against the purpose of the Act itself to shield and protect feral animals. If deer and other pest animals continue to be protected then it sets the precedent for other feral and pest animals to be introduced as protected species in the Act at a later date. They must not be protected under the Wildlife Act.

Feral deer in the numbers that have exploded since coming to Australia, present a real and dangerous risk, not only to our flora and fauna but also to our drivers on the road. There are over 1 million feral deer in Victoria alone. They are a large animal that continue to run over fences, cars and anything in their way.

I urge the board to declare deer and any other non native animals as pests so they can be properly controlled and their impacts reduced. I thank you all for taking the time in reading my submission. I hope it is not in vain.

Kind Regards

Dejan

