Local Government Association Tasmania

Our Ref: BM | LR

24 December 2025

Dean Vincent
Manager - Game Services Tasmania
Game Services Tasmania
Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Sent via email: gameservicestas@nre.tas.gov.au

Dear Dean,

Deer Management Policy Review

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the 2025 Deer Management Policy Review. This submission has been prepared by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) on behalf of Tasmanian local government.

LGAT is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and is the representative body and advocate for local government in Tasmania. Direct submissions by councils provide important local context and issues, and where our submission omits those issues, it should not be viewed as lack of support by LGAT.

At the LGAT September 2024 General Meeting our council members resolved:

> *That the Local Government Association of Tasmania lobby the Tasmanian State Government for legislative and operational reform to enable state and local government to manage and control the environmental and economic risks posed by wild, feral and nuisance animals, such as pigs, goats and deer more effectively.*

Following, we broadly welcome these reforms to support the improved management and control of deer where they are causing environmental and economic impacts. Councils with deer and peri-urban areas have noted the impacts from deer including:

- safety for road users with risk of vehicle damage, personal injury or fatality
- damaging gardens where they can consume large quantities of vegetation
- environmental impact with soil compaction and re-growth in planned burned areas impacting recovery.

Councils are also reporting these impacts, and others, from other wild, feral and nuisance animals. That is why it is extremely important for the local government sector that reforms to address the impacts from these animals is not limited to the Deer Management Policy Review. LGAT are currently pursuing the necessary legislative amendments, in line with suggestions from the NRE, and look forward to further discussion in the New Year with appropriate officers from Biosecurity Tasmania.

Several of our member councils in high deer density areas have been working closely with their Natural Resource Management groups and the Peri Urban Deer Program (PUDP) to address deer issues. These collaborations are showing promise in controlling deer in interface areas where a nuanced approach is needed. The PUDP has brought expertise and specialist equipment to manage deer in peri-urban areas that neither councils, or recreational hunters can provide. It is critical that funding for the PUDP be maintained, and preferably increased, so that the goal of eradicating deer in this zone can be achieved.

We suggest that the management approach for peri-urban areas within Zone 3 requires further consideration given the risks for public safety from hunting. The techniques used in the remote Tasmanian World Heritage Area are very different to those required in populated peri-urban areas. In particular, Measure 5 that proposes the expansion of recreational hunting across all zones. Recreational hunting should not be permitted in peri-urban areas, as these areas require specialist approaches, to protect the public and to avoid deer causing damage to property. A well-resource PUDP is ideally placed to undertake this work in close collaboration with councils.

Please contact Ben Morris, Policy Director if you have any questions or would like further information, at ben.morris@lgat.tas.gov.au or 6146 3743.

Yours sincerely,



Dion Lester
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER