

# **DEER:**

Quality Assurance, Strategic Alliances and Industry Development

A report for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

by Chris Tuckwell Rural Industry Developments

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#### **Researcher Contact Details**

Chris Tuckwell Rural Industry Developments PO Box 1105 GAWLER SA 5118 Phone: (08) 8523 3500

Phone: (08) 8523 350 Fax: (08) 8523 3301

Email: cdtuckwell@bigpond.com.au

#### **RIRDC Contact Details**

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Level 1, AMA House 42 Macquarie Street BARTON ACT 2600 PO Box 4776 KINGSTON ACT 2604

Phone: 02 6272 4539
Fax: 02 6272 5877
Email: rirdc@rirdc.gov.au
Website: http://www.rirdc.gov.au

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# **FOREWORD**

The RIRDC Deer Industry Development program undertaken from 1997/98 to 1999/00 focussed on issues for the development and expansion of the Australian Deer industry. In particular the Deer Industry Development Manager appointed by the project worked to consolidate industry infrastructure, strengthen supply systems and implement a Quality Assurance program.

This project was a logical second step in assisting the industry's development and expansion by encouraging the adoption of programs, like the industry Quality Assurance program, that will give confidence of product quality, product safety and appropriate consideration of animal welfare to its clients.

During the period of this project, farmer returns have risen significantly, the number of animals processed has risen significantly and the industry's total venison production has soared to record levels.

Whether current levels of production are sustainable is unsure. Most industry observers suggest that, based on existing estimates of the number of deer farmed in Australia, current production levels are unsustainable. The next two or three years will either confirm current industry population estimates and that production is likely to fall, or disprove current estimates and production will stay constant or even rise.

It will be easy for the industry to develop a false sense of security about current venison prices detailed in this report as the major factors that contribute to current high prices, the devaluation of the Australian currency and the general lack of European confidence in other red meats, are beyond industry control. In consideration of the major reasons for increased venison prices, Australian deer industry must not lessen their commitment to improvement in the average quality of animals offered for sale. Any revaluation of the Australian dollar or renewed European confidence in other red meat may easily result in a fall in venison prices.

This project was funded from industry revenue which is matched by funds provided by the Federal Government

This report, a new addition to RIRDC's diverse range of over 700 research publications, forms part of our Deer R&D program, which aims to foster an Australian deer industry as a profitable and efficient mainstream agricultural enterprise.

Most of our publications are available for viewing, downloading or purchasing online through our website:

- downloads at www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/Index.htm
- purchases at www.rirdc.gov.au/eshop

#### **Peter Core**

Managing Director
Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

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This project could not have been undertaken without the support and assistance of the directors of the Deer Industry Company, processors who contributed vital processing data and many other industry people (too many to name here).

In particular, I acknowledge the ongoing support of the chairman of the Deer Industry Company (Mr Terry Mahoney) and Presidents of the Deer Industry Association of Australia during the term of this project, Mr Henry Shapiro and Mr Jim Moir.

Australia's three leading venison processors and marketers (Bilby International, Australian Game Meats and The Australian Venison Cooperative) contributed to the costs of developing the Venstat database program. Without their contributions it is unlikely that Venstat could have been completed.

A special acknowledgment is made to Mr Raymond Kennington B.Sc.(Ma.Sc.)(Hons) Grad.Dip.Ed., B.Comp.Inf.Sc.(Hons), of Programming Solutions, without whose generosity and commitment to the project, the VenStat software would not be available.

This project could not have been undertaken without the considerable commitment of the project's research officer, Solange Shapiro. Solange's indefatigable commitment particularly in respect to meeting organisation, data collection and general preparedness to do what was necessary far exceeded her contractual obligations. The Australian Deer Industry generally, and me as the project's Principal Researcher, are in her debt.

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### General

Although deer were introduced in the nineteenth century commercial farming of them did not begin until the early 1970's in Victoria. However, only four of the originally introduced species (Red, Fallow, Rusa and Chital) are included in existing commercial farming systems. Since the mid 1980's, farmed deer in Australia include Wapiti (ELK) that were introduced from Canada.

Until the late 1980's, while returns from breeding stock sales were very high, the industry expanded rapidly. That rate of growth declined from the early 1990's due to droughts forcing sales of stock at low prices, increases in live animal exports and the slaughter of breeding females

Planned development of international markets for Australian venison significantly increased demand and price for slaughter stock, principally due to the efforts of the Venison Market Development Manager. However increased demand created by the project during late 1996 and early 1997 was difficult to meet because of the Industry's relatively small production base. The supply difficulties were exacerbated when the supply of products, particularly venison was maintained by the slaughter of young breeding females. The net result was depletion in the industry's female breeding herds.

In an effort to maintain existing venison markets in the short term and to increase them in the long term, the industry's top priority became the increase in size and production capacity of the national herd

## **Industry Statistics**

Collection of data continues to be difficult, as many industry members do not understand the value of the data for industry development and planning and for their own businesses.

Slaughter statistics generally support the industry population estimates provided in the report of RIRDC project DIP-1A (The Development of the Deer Industry as a major Australian livestock industry).

The industry's current population can, at best, be described as stable however improvements in overall reproductive performance or decreases in young female culling rates could easily return the industry to a state of rapid growth.

Statistics clearly show an increase in the volume of venison processed in recent years and in returns achieved by farmers. Whether production at the high levels experienced in 1999/00 and 2000/01 can be sustained is unsure.

## **Quality Assurance**

The ability of the industry to manage, proactively and responsibly expectations of governments and communities will contribute to either positive or negative perceptions and images of the industry in all markets. A major emphasis of QA programs is management of animal health and welfare issues. The maintenance of industry QA programs provides industry leaders with information they require to counter unreasonable reports associated with welfare concerns related to the farming of deer. QA programs are also useful tools for promoting the relationship between production practices that ensure:

- (i) The maintenance of animal welfare requirements and;
- (ii) The availability of high quality, uncontaminated, products for human consumption.

The industry Quality Assurance Program continues to grow, but only slowly. Many members of the industry do not accept the increasing requirement for quality assurance because consumer clients have not yet demanded it of them. Even with the unfortunate BSE and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) problems in Europe and the effect of those problems on traditional red meat sales in those countries, some industry people actively talk against the program.

### Venison

The average hot carcase weight (HCW) price for venison sank to its lowest level, since the beginning of the commercial industry, in June 1999. This state of depression existing in mid 1999 was caused by both internal and external factors that included:

- (i) The Asian currency downturn;
- (ii) The industry's lack of competitive advantage in influential markets (particularly in respect to New Zealand competition), and;
- (iii) Competition for limited product volumes of venison within industry processing and marketing sectors.

The decline in farm gate returns significantly reduced industry confidence and saw an increasing number of producers leave the industry and a decreasing interest in new investment in the industry.

Since late 1999 the number of abattoirs used to process deer and the number of businesses involved in processing and marketing venison has undergone a self-rationalisation. In effect the number of businesses marketing and abattoirs processing has reduced with a smaller number of venison marketers each controlling a larger volume of venison marketed. This means that processors can afford to invest in market development based on confidence in product availability.

Average venison prices have increased from an average of \$2.30/kg HCW throughout 1998/99 to \$3.48/kg HCW throughout 2000/01 (no deductions for the industry levy and other costs) and while prices are currently attractive, the industry must consider the reasons for the increase.

Major reasons for the increase in venison prices achieved by farmers are beyond industry control and include the devaluation of the Australian currency and the general lack of European confidence in other red meats that increased demand for meats like venison.

It will be easy for the industry to develop a false sense of security about current venison prices. In consideration of the major reasons for increased venison prices, Australian deer industry must not lessen their commitment to improvement in the average quality of animals offered for sale. Any revaluation of the Australian dollar or renewed European confidence in other red meat may easily result in a fall in venison prices.

The industry must continue to strive to stabilise prices with factors that it can control, in particular the continuous supply known volumes of quality product, to be able to attract new industry entrants and facilitate its expansion.

### **Velvet Antler**

Although the Australian Deer Horn and Co-Products Company (ADH) continues to be a major player in the collection, grading and sale of velvet antler, other companies continue to be involved.

Interest in the processing and sale of value added velvet antler products continue to grow and several companies purchase raw products, negotiate contract processing and are developing market outlets for product in Australia. Initially, target markets are those that cater for inbound Asian tourists and in particular those in Queensland and New South Wales.

The Australian Velvet Accreditation scheme continues to have a positive effect on quality that in turn has a positive effect on price paid to growers.

### **Strategic Alliances**

Over the past two years there has been an increasing understanding of strategic alliances and the concept of loyalty. This has resulted in a preparedness to informally accept arrangements with processors where agreements to supply are established according to mutually acceptable specifications.

Venstat is a computer database program developed as a major strategic alliance development activity of this project. It provides processors with the ability to record details about deer ownership, identification tags, species, standard hot carcase weight, sex type, age, condition score, bruising, QA status and schedule prices.

The VenStat program also allows processors to produce detailed reports for owners that highlight information that can be used to improve grower returns. These reports include: hot carcase weight (HCW), body condition scores, carcase bruising, co-product bonuses and prices for each carcase.

Processors can print Tax Invoices for each deer farmers directly from the program.

This project has advertised Australian venison via the Food and Beverage Association's Source Book and has nominated the point of contact for interested consumers as the Deer Industry Association of Australia Secretariat.

### The Future

Major considerations for continued Australian Deer industry price stability, industry expansion and market demand for industry products include:

- (i) Farmer and processor commitment to price schedule grids that ensure that farmers target processor specifications and processors pay premiums for carcases that meet or are close to 'ideal' specifications;
- (ii) The development of sustainable and profitable markets for industry co-products;
- (iii) Collective commitment of farmers and processors to industry quality assurance programs and;
- (iv) Continued development of strategic alliances between groups of growers and selected processors.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

### Origin

Introduced animals, representing six species of deer were released at various locations throughout Australia during the Nineteenth Century under the Acclimatisation programs of the day. The animals dispersed and established wild populations at various locations across Australia mostly depending upon their points of release into the wild, and formed the basis for the deer industry in Australia today.

Deer farming in Australia commenced in Victoria in 1971. Currently (2001) five species of deer, three from temperate climates (red, fallow, wapiti [elk]) and two tropical species (rusa, chital) are commercially farmed in Australia.

## **Industry Structures**

The Deer Industry Association of Australia (DIAA) was created to represent all sectors of the Australian Industry as necessary. Members subscribe directly or through state organisations, breed societies or processing associations.

The DIAA has established two product development and marketing companies, the Australian Deer Horn and Co Products Pty Ltd and the Deer Industry Projects and Development Pty Ltd.

#### Australian Deer Horn and Co Products Pty Ltd (ADH)

ADH & C-Products collects and markets Australian deer horn on behalf of its members. It promotes the harvest of velvet antler according to the strict quality assurance (QA) program promoted by the industry.

### Deer Industry Projects and Development Pty Ltd

Deer industry Projects and Developments Pty Ltd trades as the Deer Industry Company (DIC). It undertakes project work to assist the industry achieve its goals as described in the Industry five year plan, or otherwise as required by the DIAA.

### **Markets**

During the early growth years of the industry market development for its two major products, velvet and venison, was constrained by the size of the herd, a supply constraint. As such, market development was restricted to the more easily accessible markets then, generally domestic markets.

By 1990, the volume of velvet available from the Australian herds was sufficient for the DFFA to commence the first national velvet pools. The majority of deer farmers cooperatively market their velvet antler through the Australian Deer Horn and Co Products Company.

Markets for venison expanded noticeably under the influence of the Venison Market Development program funded by RIRDC from 1992-96. The significant increase in domestic consumption of venison during this period was dramatically augmented by the overseas demand for Australian venison that took effect from 1993-94.

However, the rapid increases in exports of venison have been accomplished at the expense of maintaining the size of the national herd, through the depletion of female stock slaughtered for venison as well as live exports. Consequently the DIAA's top industry priority was to increase the national herd size

### **Herd Size**

Statistics on the Australian deer herd are significantly better than those previously available but are still largely based on estimates. Best industry estimates suggest that in January 2001 approximately 180,000 deer are farmed by between 600 and 1,000 farmers in Australia. Fallow make up about 41% and Red deer make up about 41% of the total population with Rusa 12%, Chital 2% and Elk 4% making up the remainder of the population.

The industry grew rapidly until the early 1900's when returns from breeding stock sales were very high. The growth of the industry declined due to droughts forcing the sale of stock at low prices, increases in live animal exports and the slaughter of breeding females.

Expansion of Australia's deer industry production base will be determined by the industry's ability to convince existing deer farmers and potential investors of the economic advantages of deer farming and of the current and future product market opportunities that give confidence for long term investment.

# 2. OBJECTIVES

Project objectives reflect general industry priorities and in particular the number 1 priority in the Deer Industry R&D 5-year plan 1996-2000?

Objectives were to develop and implement strategies that will consolidate and expand production of Australian deer products and position the Australian Deer Industry as a commercial livestock industry that complements Australian's traditional livestock industries.

The project is a logical and necessary extension of the 1997-1999 RIRDC-funded project 'The Development of the Deer Industry as a Major Australian Livestock Industry'.

### Specific objectives were:

- Data base development initiated during 1997-99 will be maintained and expanded as possible.
- The development of strategic alliances between producers and processors to assist the production and processing commitment respectively that will assist quality assurance programs will be encouraged.
- The development of documentation for the licensed used of the Deer Industry QA Marks will be continued.
- Regular and open reporting of market information to industry will continue.

# 3. METHODOLOGY

The project had four major objectives (described in section 2). The project methodology is described for each objective.

## **Objective 1 - Maintenance of databases**

Data bases initiated during 1997-1999 project, 'The Development of the Deer Industry as a Major Australian Livestock Industry', particularly those related to venison production will be maintained and expanded.

### Objective 2 - Strategic alliance development

Development of strategic alliances between producers and processors will be encouraged. Alliances will be encouraged on the basis of the industry quality assurance program and will focus on commitments from both producers and processors.

### Objective 3 – QA documentation and adoption

A workshop to update facilitator skills will be undertaken in association with the Industry Biannual conference in September 1999.

Industry will negotiate with an appropriate person or group to develop documentation for the DIAA to use when licensing individuals or groups to use the registered industry QA marks.

The industry QA program will be promoted and industry participants will be encouraged to adopt the program.

# **Objective 4 – Industry Reports**

Continued cooperation with processors will be sought to allow regular and open reporting of available market information.

# 4. RESULTS

Results described are broadly presented according to the objectives described in (2) and (3) above.

### **Objective 1 - Maintenance of databases**

The 'The Development of the Deer Industry as a Major Australian Livestock Industry' project developed a comprehensive database of industry contacts. The database that maintains contact lists for industry groups and specialists has been updated and disseminated to industry leaders, appropriate government representatives and industry partners.

A copy of the current Industry Contact List is included as an appendix to this report.

The industry research database initiated by the 'The Development of the Deer Industry as a Major Australian Livestock Industry' project has been maintained and expanded as other project commitments allowed.

The Deer Industry Research Reference Database that was created with the commercially available 'End Note' program, can be accessed from the DIAA (www.diaa.org) web site or the RIRDC website (<a href="www.rirdc.gov.au">www.rirdc.gov.au</a>). This database provides a summary of much of the deer research undertaken in Australia and New Zealand as well as selected references from other areas.

The reference database provides brief details about the nature of research, its author(s) and the scientific journals in which it was published.

## Objective 2 - Strategic alliance development

Until late 1999 many of those involved in 'marketing' Australian venison could have better been described as 'spot sellers'. Those people made very little investment in the development of long-term alliances between growers, processors and consumer clients.

This lack of investment activity meant that producers were continuously badgered by different 'marketers' to provide animals which in turn led producers to play different 'marketers' off against each other to maximise their short term return. The lack of preparedness of producers to develop any loyalty to a 'marketer' meant that in turn the 'marketers' could have no confidence in supply of product.

The lack of cooperation between the processors (marketers) also meant that there was an inability to pool co products to attract market interest so much of the co products were wasted or sold opportunistically (literally given away for little or no return).

The severe decline in farm gate returns experienced by the industry in mid 1999 saw a significant erosion of immediate industry profitability and long-term confidence. Subsequently, many small producers left the industry, interest in new investment in the industry declined and many of those involved with venison processing/marketing left the industry.

The recent industry rationalisation led to a reduction of industry competition between companies involved in processing and marketing venison products that subsequently. This has meant increased confidence in the ability of the remaining marketers to source and supply product. It has also resulted in fewer processors that have access to commercially saleable volumes of co products.

An example of the improvement in grower returns from industry rationalisation and strategic alliance developments is the improvement in the value of co products sourced from red and fallow deer. One company that began paying small premiums, directly to farmers, for co products obtained from deer they had purchased, evidences this.

Gradually there is an increasing concept of loyalty and a preparedness to informally accept strategic alliances with processors where agreements to supply are established according to mutually acceptable specifications.

However two significant difficulties still exist. They are:

- (i) Some producers are still prepared to change supply commitments for a small increase in short-term returns achieved for a particular sale lot and
- (ii) Some marketers negotiate supply contracts with clients (particularly internationally) for which supply may be difficult and so are forced to entice growers away from existing supply agreements for a small short-term improvement in returns.

Producers can assist the development of strategic alliances with processors by encouraging the establishment of supply agreements according to specifications that are mutually acceptable. Agreements might detail animal age, sex, breed and weight specifications for producers and minimum price payments by processors.

### Venison Price Schedule Calculator

A tool to assist purchasers of deer to objectively develop farmer price schedules has been developed as part of this project. The calculator is available in Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format and will allow processors to develop price schedules that match client and market needs.

The price schedule calculator is available for no cost to interested processors.

#### VenStat – The Venison Statistics Computer Database Program

Venstat is a computer database program developed as a major strategic alliance development activity of this project. The program comprises two separate pieces of software, the VENSTAT GATHERER [VG] program and the VENSTAT ANALYSER [VA] program. The Deer Industry Company owns the copyright for both programs

Processors record and analyse data using the VG program. It allows processors to record details about deer ownership, identification tags, species, standard hot carcase weight, sex type, age, condition score, bruising, QA status and schedule prices. VG also allows processors to print Tax Invoices for each deer farmers directly from the program.

VG offers significantly better data storage, analysis, retrieval and reporting capability than currently available to most processors. Although not all of the functions of VG will be used immediately (QA status and condition score) they are included in the program as it is likely that future prices paid by processors for deer will be influenced by QA status and body condition score.

VG will be available, for a nominally small fee, to Australian business that process deer. However its availability will be linked to a specific understanding and agreement that data collected by the processor will be sent regularly (each successive calendar month) to the Deer Industry Company.

The Deer Industry Company owns and maintains (on behalf of industry) the VENSTAT ANALYSER (VA) program. Data provided by processors from the VG program will be incorporated into the VENSTAT ANALYSER [VA] program that will be used to collect, collate and analyse statistical data related to venison production and processing. It will be used to produce industry reports and to aid industry development and marketing programs.

VG and VA programs have been developed in a way that prevents the transfer of any data that identifies any individual owner from being passed from a VG to the VG.

None of the data provided from VG's to VA can be identified back to the originating VG, so the VA will not be able to identify and sort data from individual processors. Rather, data from individual processors will be combined into an industry database.

The Venstat program appears to have international potential either solely as the VG option for individual processors or as the complete package where a processor needs to be able to combine data from several sites.

### Food and Beverage Association

The Food and Beverage Association produces an annual publication called the Food and Beverage Association Source Book. The Source Book, widely used by Australian Chefs and food purchasers, is a compilation of details of food and beverage available in Australia and how to obtain product as required.

This project has advertised Australian venison via the Source book and has nominated the point of contact for interested consumers as the Deer Industry Association of Australia Secretariat. The Secretariat will provide information on nearest suppliers of quality products to interested consumers.

### Objective 3 – QA documentation and adoption

### Facilitator Workshop

Prior to the commencement of the 1999 Australian Deer Industry Conference, a meeting of all the Deer Industry Quality Assurance Board and attending Quality Assurance Facilitators was convened.

At the meeting, representatives of the QA Board provided attending Facilitators with an update of Board activities, amendments to the program and Facilitators responsibilities.

The meeting also provided a forum for an open interchange between Facilitators and Board members. Those present reviewed activities and discussed possible amendments to all manuals that will improve the understanding of manuals or their ease of use or their completeness given new knowledge or practical application of new available technical information.

At the meeting, Ken Robertson (a Facilitator from Victoria) was nominated as a specialist an advisor to the Board on issues related to the transport of deer. Ken is willing to provide practical advise or assistance with the transport aspect of the Deer QA program to those who seek it.

### Seminar on Export Meat

In January 2000 the project's Principal Researcher, Chris Tuckwell, attended a meeting in Canberra on behalf of the Deer Industry. Summary outcomes of the meeting that directly affect deer farmers were:

- (i) AQIS and EU officials finally reached a mutually acceptable agreement related to the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles used to transport deer. The approved method for the cleaning and disinfection of deer transports is that, before the first pick-up on each day, all trucks must be thoroughly washed using high-pressure cold water to remove all organic matter, and then allowed to air dry.
- (ii) EU Officials may visit Australia and will look for evidence that washing has occurred and that documentation verifies that cleaning is undertaken and that farmers and abattoirs verify (by filed declarations) that each transporter meets EU requirements related to the transport of deer
- (iii) Abattoirs and transporters will need to produce appropriate paperwork to verify that cleaning and disinfection is undertaken as required.

#### QA Facilitator Code of Ethics

The QA Board sought legal advice with respect to the form of a contract and code of conduct that it should require for its Facilitators. A code has been developed, and accepted by the Board.

The approved Code was sent to all existing facilitators to sign as a requirement for their continued facilitator accreditation and signing of the Code will be a pre-requisite to training for future facilitators.

### **Property Signs**

Large property signs that advertise the Quality Assurance status of deer properties were developed. People whose farms achieve level-two accreditation status can now order a property QA sign, which has a guaranteed outdoor life of seven years, from the Deer Industry Company.

### **QA Mark Documentation**

A contract was negotiated with Trevor Rankin to develop the documentation that will allow registration of industry QA marks for venison and velvet. Documentation for marks was completed between January and March 2000 and the Deer Industry Company subsequently lodged applications for registration of five (5) industry quality

marks including deer farms, deer transports, venison, unprocessed velvet antler and processed velvet antler with the Trades Marks Office (IP Australia).

The marks will be available to any person in the Deer industry that meets and continues to adhere to rules and agreed standards for their use. Quality marks are designed to promote the fact that the product or service provided is guaranteed by industry to meet strict minimum standards of quality.

Those who wish to use the marks on products or services they sell will be assessed by industry auditors to ensure they meet minimum quality standards and will need to demonstrate through regular and ongoing auditing that they continue to meet the standards required.

Although the Quality Assurance marks have been accepted by IP Australia, final approval for the Mark relies on acceptance by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC). The ACCC is examining supporting documentation to ensure that the program does not unfairly discriminate against any sectors of industry. Any changed required by the ACCC are likely to be minor to remove any inadvertent opportunities for unfair discrimination from the QA manual.

The Australian Consumer Control Commission has experienced staff shortage problems and operating procedure problems that has significantly delayed the final assessment of the five industry quality marks for deer farms, deer transports, venison, unprocessed velvet antler and processed velvet antler. The ACC is hopeful that final assessments will be completed before the end of August 2001.

### Encouragement for Producers to Adopt the QA Program

To encourage adoption of the program, the Chairman of the QA Board wrote to all State Presidents and Facilitators urging them to publicize the QA Program and encourage all to become accredited. He also wrote to the Processors asking them to support the QA Program and encouraged them to:

- (i) Give preference to animals that are provided by QA Farms and
- (ii) Develop a premium for animals coming off QA Farms.

At the time of writing this report, none of the processors have been prepared to commit to a pricing schedule that provides a premium for deer originating from QA assured deer farms with a general comment that until their consumer clients preferentially request product from QA assured farms they will not specifically seek it or pay a premium for it

### **Objective 4 – Industry Reports**

Along with the Deer Industry Bookshop, the office of the Deer Industry Company is now established as a first point of contact for people seeking technical information on the Australian deer industry.

As the DIC office is jointly the office for the Deer Industry Quality Assurance Board, it also maintains information related to the QA program and is the first contact for industry people who wish to become involved in the program.

In January and February 1998 the majority of venison processors/marketers in Australia agreed to regularly contribute data on price and weight of animals processed on a monthly basis. Each processor provides:

- (i) Basic, details of the volume of venison processed by species and within weight ranges;
- (ii) A Hot Carcase Weight (HCW) price for each category, net of the industry levy and delivered to the abattoir.

Although not all processors agreed to provide data for the database, project researchers are confident that the greatest majority of venison (more than 90%) processed in Australia is accounted for

Some processors withdrew their co-operation during the year generally citing the extra workload for little or no apparent benefit as their main reason. Their withdrawal is disappointing as data collected is used by all sectors of the industry and probably by those who do not contribute to it.

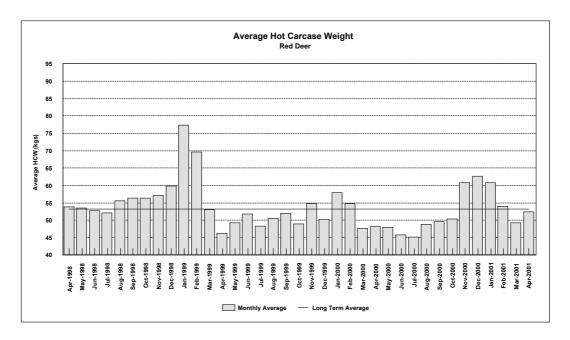
Data collected has been routinely reported in the RIRDC newsletter and in the Australian Deer Farming Magazine.

### Venison Production and Carcase Weight

Data collected shows some predictable monthly trends, particularly with respect to live weight. However the percentage of processed animals with a hot carcase weight (HCW) that is less than a weight that could be regarded as 'ideal' is a continuing cause for concern and should be reflected in Industry extension programs aimed at improving average returns to farmers.

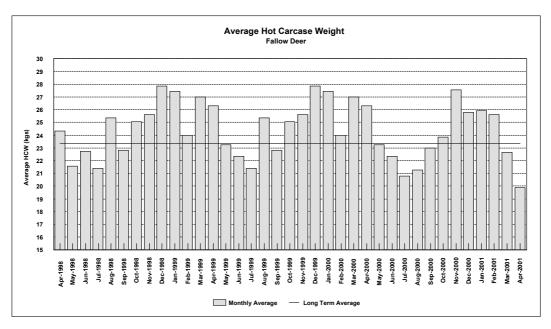
Graph 1 shows the average HCW of red and red hybrid deer since April 1998 and the average HCW for all red and red hybrid deer carcases during that period.

Graph 1 – Average HCW of Red Deer



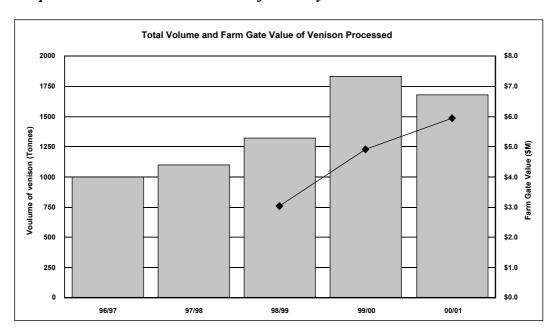
Graph 2 shows the average HCW of fallow deer processed since April 1998 and the average HCW for all fallow deer carcases during that period.

Graph 2 - Average HCW of Fallow Deer



The average hot carcase weight (for the period shown on the graphs 1 and 2) is 23.4kg for fallow deer and 53.1kg for red (including hybrid) deer. The average HCW for red deer in 1998/99, 1999/00, 2000/01 was 56.0, 50.7 and 53.4 respectively. The average HCW for fallow deer during the same years was 24.5, 22.6 and 23.6 respectively.

Graph 3 shows the volume of venison processed by co-operating processors since 1997 and its Farm Gate Value with no deductions for the statutory industry levy, processing and transport costs. Although not all Australian processors contribute to the data, summary data supports our view that the data collected represents the greatest percentage of product processed in Australia.



Graph 3 - Total Value and Volume of Industry Venison Production

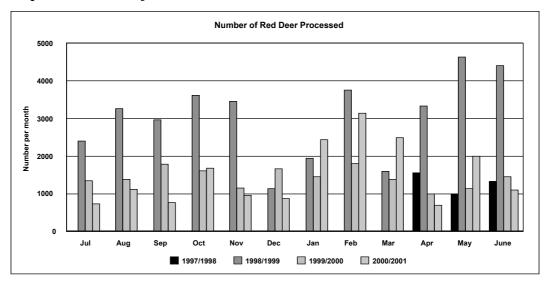
The total volume of venison processed by cooperating processors during the year July 1999 to June 2000 was 1,832 tonnes and for the year July 2000 to June 2001 the volume was 1,679 tonnes.

### Number of deer processed

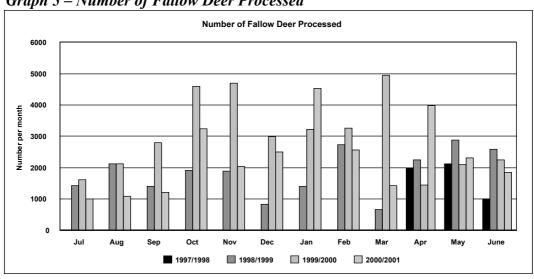
The actual number of animals processed has not been recorded by this project (processors were only asked to provide the total HCW, by species within weight ranges and not the number of stock processed) so an estimate the number of animals that have been processed has been made.

The project recorded the total HCW (Hot Carcase Weight) of each species within defined weight ranges. An assumption that the average HCW for each weight range is a HCW equal to the mid point of the range (range of 40 to 44.9kg has a mid value of 42.45kg) was made (see appendix 2). On this basis, an estimate was made of the number of animals processed to produce the known volume of HCW. The number of stock processed was estimated for each weight range by month. Graphs 4, 5 and 6 show the estimated number of red (including hybrids), fallow and rusa deer processed.

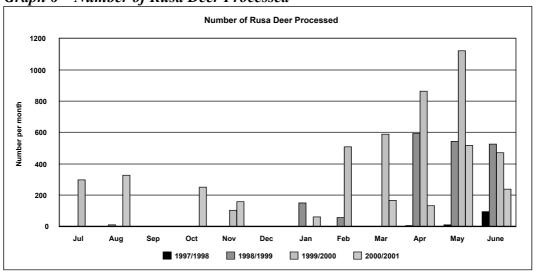
Graph 4 – Number of Red Deer Processed



Graph 5 - Number of Fallow Deer Processed



Graph 6 - Number of Rusa Deer Processed



The total number of deer processed by cooperating processors during the year July 1999 to June 2000 was 56,105 animals and was 47,624 for the year July 2000 to June 2001.

Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Red Deer

Red Deer

Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Red Deer

Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Red Deer

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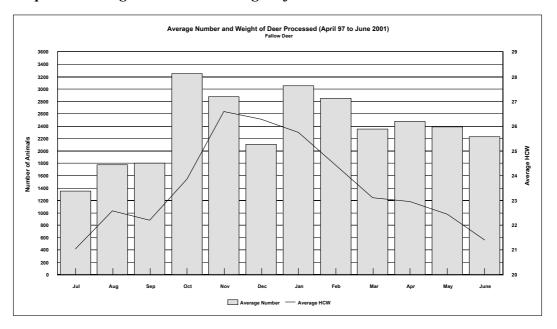
Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Average Number and Weight of Deer Processed (April 97 to June 2001)

Graph 7 – Average Number and Weight of Fallow Deer Processed



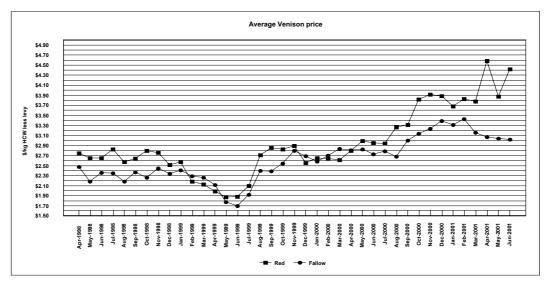


### Average Venison Price to Farmers

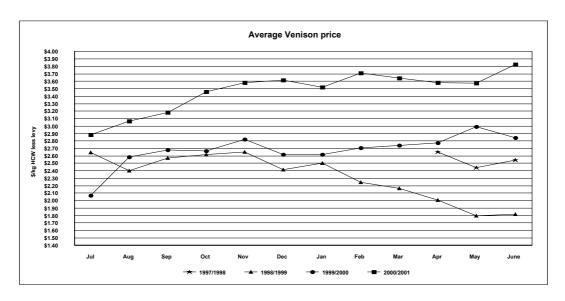
Graphs 9 and 10 show the average venison price (HCW delivered to the abattoir) for all red and fallow deer carcases. Although data was also collected for rusa deer, the volume of venison produced by these deer only averages about 6% of the total volume and there are many months with no data so the data is not shown. *These data do not include* 

deductions for the statutory industry levy, processing and transport costs. Graph 9 shows the average venison price over the period shown while graph 10 compares the average venison price between years.

Graph 9 – Average Venison Price (\$/kg HCW)

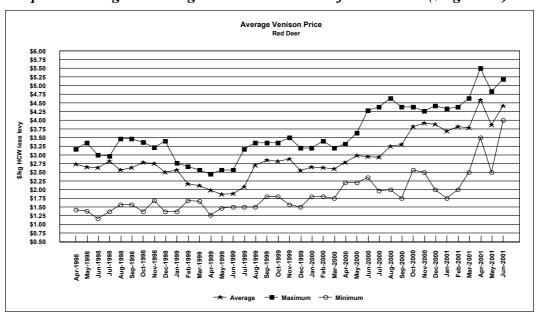


Graph 10 – Average Venison Price [Between Years Comparison] (\$/kg HCW)



### Variation in Average Venison Value

Graph 11 shows the average venison price and maximum and minimum price paid (HCW delivered to the abattoir) for all red deer carcases processed between 1998/99 and 2000/01. These data do not include deductions for the statutory industry levy, processing and transport costs.

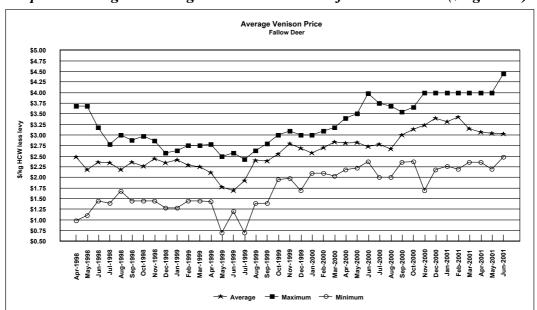


Graph 11 - Range in Average Venison Price Paid for Red Deer (\$/kg HCW)

During the period described, the maximum price paid for red deer venison was up to \$1.44 above the average price and as much as \$1.93 below the average price.

The mean difference between the average price and the maximum price was \$0.67 while the mean difference between the average price and the minimum price was \$1.08 so the mean range from maximum to minimum price for red deer venison during the period described was \$1.75.

Graph 12 shows the average venison price and maximum and minimum price paid (HCW delivered to the abattoir) for all fallow deer carcases processed between 1998/99 and 2000/01. These data do not include deductions for the statutory industry levy, processing and transport costs.



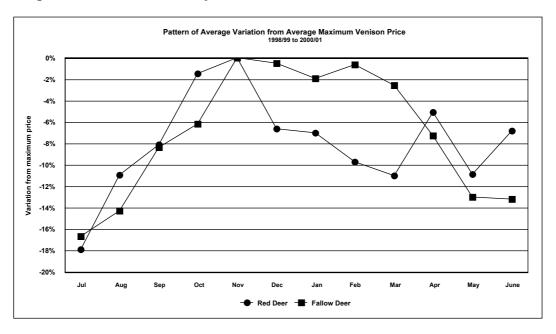
Graph 12 - Range in Average Venison Price Paid for Fallow Deer (\$/kg HCW)

During the period described, the mean difference between the average price and the maximum price was \$0.66 while the mean difference between the average price and the minimum price was \$0.86 so the mean range from maximum to minimum price for red deer venison during the period described was \$1.52.

The greatest difference between the average price and the maximum price was \$1.49 and the greatest difference between the average price and the minimum price was \$1.55.

### Annual Pattern of Average Venison Prices

The pattern of changes in the relative prices paid for red and fallow deer venison during the years 1998/99 to 2000/01 is shown in graph 13. The pattern clearly reflects the pattern of European demand for venison and by interpretation the dependence of the Australian venison industry on European demand. As the industry develops demand for venison in markets other than Europe the wide price differential between maximum and minimum prices is likely to lessen.

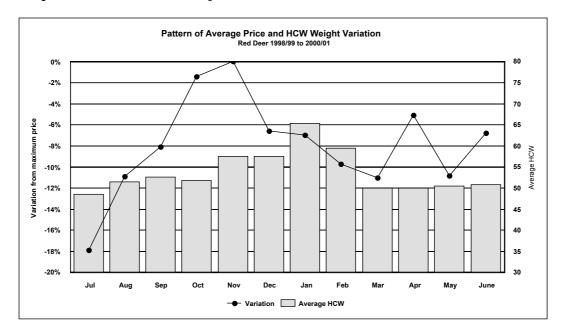


Graph 13 - Annual Pattern of Venison Price Variation

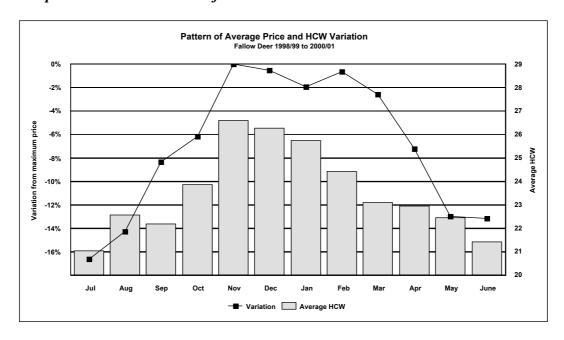
Graphs 14 and 15 show that the greatest difference in variation from the maximum price achieved by farmers occurs when average carcase weights are lowest. Graph 14 also clearly demonstrates that for red deer and red deer hybrids, carcase weights above ideal weight ranges do not attract more \$ per kg HCW weight that those within ideal weight ranges. Careful consideration must be given to assessments of the relative cost/benefit of achieving carcase weights above ideal.

The net return to growers may be greater for larger animals but will be dependent of cost efficiency of achieving the extra weight.

Graph 14 - Annual Pattern of Red Deer Venison and HCW Variation



Graph 15 - Annual Pattern of Fallow Deer Venison and HCW Variation



### Effect of the Exchange Rate on Average Venison Value

The relative value of the Australian dollar, as reflected by its rate of exchange with the US dollar, has a significant effect on venison returns to farmers. Graph 16 clearly demonstrates how closely linked the average price received by Australian deer farmers for venison is to the relative value of the Australian dollar. The effect of the early 1999 Asian crisis on venison values is also clearly evident from the graph.

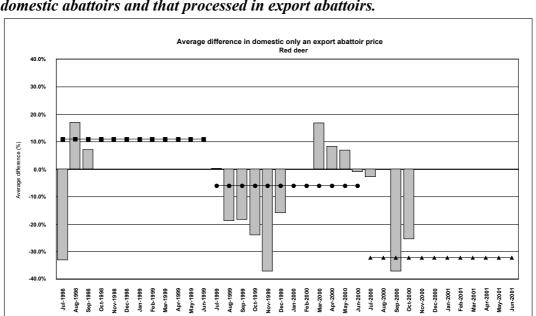
Average Venison price \$4.00 \$1.00 \$3.80 \$3.60 \$0.92 \$3,40 \$0.88 \$3.20 \$3.00 ess \$2.80 \$/kg HCW AUD: US \$2.40 \$0.68 \$2.20 \$0.64 \$2.00 \$0.60 \$1.80 \$0.56 \$0.52 \$1.60 Sep-1999 Oct-1999 Nov-1999 Apr-2000

Graph 16 - Effect of Exchange Rate on Average Value of Venison

### Effect of Likely Market for Venison

Graphs 17 and 18 clearly show the average difference in price paid for venison by those who process in domestic abattoirs (domestic markets only) and those who process is export-accredited abattoirs (principally for export markets).

Graph 17 not only shows that little red deer venison is processed in domestic works (no values for many months) but in the financial years 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, returns to farmers for red deer venison processed in domestic abattoirs was about 8% and 32% less respectively than the return achieved for red deer venison processed in export abattoirs.



Graph 17 – Difference in the average price paid for red deer venison processed in domestic abattoirs and that processed in export abattoirs.

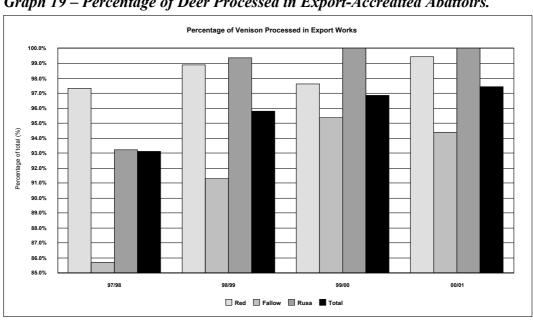
Graph 18 not only shows that fallow deer venison is regularly processed in domestic works (all months have a value) but in the financial years 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, returns to farmers for fallow deer venison processed in domestic abattoirs was about 14% and 15% less respectively than the return achieved for fallow deer venison processed in export abattoirs.

40.0% 30.0% 10.0% 0.0% -20.0%

Graph 18 – Difference in the average price paid for fallow deer venison processed in domestic abattoirs and that processed in export abattoirs.

### **Export or Domestic Abattoirs**

Graph 19 shows the percentage of all Australian venison that is processed in exportaccredited abattoirs. The graph shows that in all years more than 95% of red deer are processed in export-accredited abattoirs and since 1998/98 more than 90% of all fallow deer have been processed in export-accredited abattoirs.

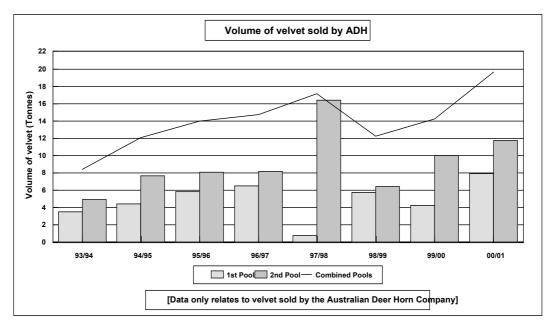


Graph 19 - Percentage of Deer Processed in Export-Accredited Abattoirs.

#### Velvet Antler Production

Industry estimates suggest that the majority (50 to 70%) of velvet antler (deer horn) produced by the Australian deer industry is sold through the velvet pools managed by the Australian Deer Horn and Co Products Company (ADH).

Most unprocessed velvet antler is sold to international buyers. Prices paid for velvet antler produced by the Australian industry are strongly influenced by, and closely linked, to prices paid to New Zealand deer farmers. Although prices received for Australian velvet antler are linked to New Zealand prices (mostly sold to Korean buyers), ADH continues to foster relationships with Chinese buyers of deer antler.



Graph 20 - Volume of Velvet Sold by ADH

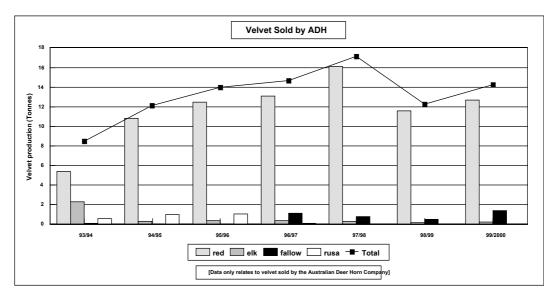
Graph 20 shows how the volume of velvet antler sold by ADH has grown since the 1993/94 season. The fall in the total volume of velvet processed by ADH following the 1997/98 pool is a reflection of:

- (i) A fall in production as a consequence of the 1997/98 prices and:
- (ii) An assumed increase in the volume of product sold outside the pools in a belief of an opportunity to earn better returns from private sales.

The volume of velvet sold by ADH increased from 1998/99 to 1999/2000 as a direct result of velvet price improvements from 1997/98 to 1998/99 for product sold by ADH and a general belief that prices for the 1999/2000 season would be greater than for the 1998/99 season.

A major reason that velvet production in 1999/00 did not recover to 1997/98 levels was that as a direct result of the recovery of venison prices during 1999/00, a large number

of males that could have produced velvet were processed for venison. Graph 21 shows that the contribution of each species to the volume of velvet antler sold by ADH has grown since the 1993/94 season.

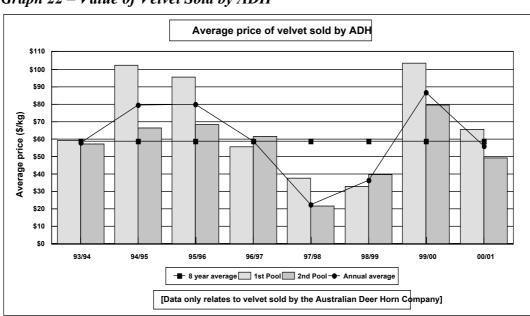


Graph 21 - Volume of Velvet Sold by ADH by Species

On average, since the 199394 season almost 90% of all velvet antler sold by ADH has been produced by red deer and red deer hybrids. During the same period Elk/Wapiti have produced about 4.0%, Fallow deer 4.0% and Rusa deer about 2.5% annually.

### **Velvet Antler Prices**

Graph 22 shows how the value of velvet antler sold by ADH has grown since the 1993/94 season.

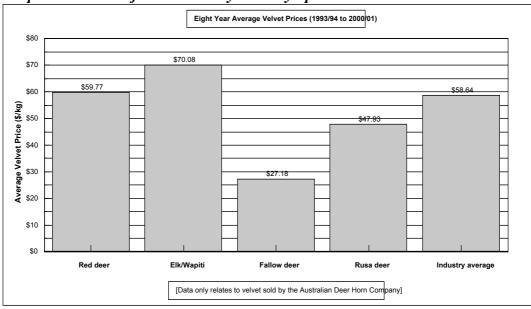


Graph 22 - Value of Velvet Sold by ADH

Interestingly, the average value of velvet sold at the first ADH pool in most years (1996/97 and 1998/99 are the only exceptions) is consistently greater that the average value of velvet sold at the second pool each year. The obvious decrease in prices achieved for antler sold in the 2000/01 season is related to economy difficulties in Korea that made imports of the antler more difficult.

The graph shows that the eight season average price for velvet antler sold by ADH is about \$58.50 per kilogram fresh (unprocessed frozen) weight. Although not shown on the graph, the average price of red deer antler over the same period was about \$60.00 per kilogram but if a seven-year average (omitting the poor performance in 1997/98) is calculated, the average price for red deer velvet is almost \$67.00 per kilogram. Some say that this is a more reasonable average on which investment budgets should be calculated.

Graph 23 shows the variation in average prices between pools in each year and the average price for all velvet in each year relative to the eight-year (beginning with the 1993/94 season) average price for all velvet sold by ADH.



Graph 23 - Value of Velvet Sold by ADH by Species

From data presented in Graph 23 the major contributor to the eight season average price for velvet antler sold by ADH is the value of red deer velvet however the low value of fallow deer velvet reduces the industry average value. These eight-year averages for each species are reasonable averages for use in planning budgets by those considering investment in the deer industry.

# 5. DISCUSSION

## **Quality Assurance**

The ability of the industry to manage, proactively and responsibly, expectations of governments and communities will contribute to either positive or negative perceptions and images of the industry in all markets. A major emphasis of QA programs is the management of animal health and welfare issues.

Key components of the Deer industry QA program are food safety and animal welfare and the program expects that each person in the production chain takes responsibility for and documents, all activity that occurs during the stage of production that they control. Standards addressed by the Deer Industry QA programs cover a wide range of food safety risks and include consideration of issues including: antibiotic residues; broken needles; drug withholding periods; safety of supplementary feed and meat hygiene. Animal welfare issues considered include provision of: adequate shelter; adequate feed; handling facilities; veterinary care; transport facilities and accredited velveting practices.

The benefits of an industry QA program are increasingly obvious from observation of other industries, both traditional and new. For example access to European markets for Australia's Ostrich and some aspects of poultry industries is less sure because of ongoing difficulties with Newcastle Disease. In principal the industries have recently experienced difficulty in satisfying European market animal health and welfare requirements in relation to Newcastle Disease.

The 2001 banning by Korea of importation of velvet antler from Canada because of health concerns (real or perceived) from Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) also demonstrates the importance of being able to guarantee, from well-maintained, objectively recorded data, to consumers that product meets their minimum acceptable standards. Australia is one of a small number of countries that is accepted as not having either Bovine Spongioform Encephalopathy (BSE) or CWD.

It is important for all those in the deer industry to remember that the next person in the chain solely determines the quality or value of a good or service. This means that the activities of each person involved in the production, processing and marketing chain are determined by the final consumer of the good or service and so quality requirements must be determined from the end user back through the marketing, processing and production systems.

Well maintained industry QA programs provide industry leaders with information they require to counter unreasonable reports related to the welfare of farmed deer. They also promote the relationship between production practices that ensure animal welfare requirements are maintained and the availability of high quality, uncontaminated, products for human consumption.

To be credible and accepted by the marketplace as a reasonable guarantee of food safety and commitments to animal welfare, QA programs must be open to regular audit by both program administrators and the market place. The Australian Deer industry QA programs managed by industry on behalf of its members provides that credibility and accountability required by the marketplace.

Quality Assurance may not necessarily guarantee a premium price for products, but it may well guarantee market access for product. In other words, in the near future, it is likely that unless a product meets a minimum (externally audited) quality standard, market access will be limited. However, most industry groups who adopt quality assurance programs notice an improvement in profitability through an improvement in management control associated with record keeping undertaken as part of quality assurance accreditation.

If the industry does not meet requirements of importing countries, its access to markets is likely to be restricted. For example, the industry must maintain its commitment to quality assurance requirements (cleaning and disinfection of transports) for transportation of stock destined to EU markets to ensure continued market access for its venison.

Industry leader must continually encourage domestic and international users of the Industry's products and services to, where possible, preferentially purchase from suppliers who are accredited by the industry Quality Assurance program and use the industry accreditation marks to demonstrate their commitment to quality.

All Australian Deer industry members are encouraged to adopt the industry QA program and in turn help guarantee market access for those sectors of industry concerned with marketing their products that in turn will help guarantee the industry's sustainable and profitable future.

### Venison

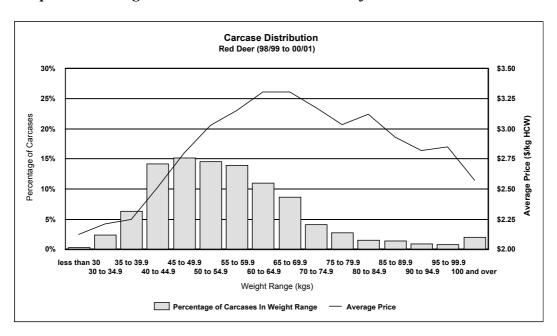
Data produced by the 1997-1999 RIRDC-funded project 'The Development of the Deer Industry as a Major Australian Livestock Industry' and this project show a wide variation in weight of carcases processed by Australia's venison processors. Although seasonal influences and natural change in body weight contributes significantly to this variation in carcase weight, experience suggests that a significant proportion of underweight animals during spring, summer and autumn result from inadequate nutrition regimes. Research data from around the

world and local experience suggests that with appropriate feed management and considered use of genetics, the difficulties in maintaining body weight and growth rates during the winter, especially for male stock, can be minimised.

### Average Carcase Weight Distribution and Average Price for Weight Ranges

Graphs 24, 25 and 26 show the average percentage of carcases within each specified weight range and the average carcase price for each of the weight ranges for red fallow and rusa deer for the years 1998/99 to 2000/01.

Graph 24 shows that while the range of average carcase weight for the greatest percentage of deer sold was 40 to 60 kilograms, the average price (\$/kg HCW) is greatest for carcases that weigh from 60 to 70 kgs. The price data suggests that the preferred, 'ideal' red deer carcase weight required by processors is within the range 55 to 75 kilograms. The inference from the graph is returns to farmers could be improved by increasing average carcase weights of red deer sold.



Graph 24 - Average Carcase Distribution and Price for Red Deer

Data for fallow deer is summarized in Graph 25. The graph shows that the greatest percentage of fallow deer sold have average carcase weights that are less than 26 kilograms while the average price (\$/kg HCW) is greatest for carcases that weigh from 26 to 30 kilograms.

The data suggests that the preferred, 'ideal' fallow deer carcase weight required by processors is from 26 to 30 kilograms. This data clearly shows that the returns to farmers could be improved by increasing average carcase weights of fallow deer sold.

**Carcase Distribution** Fallow Deer (98/99 to 00/01) 30% \$3.50 25% \$3.25 Percentage of Carcases 20% 15% 10% 5% \$2.25 less than 20 20 to 22.9 23 to 25.9 26 to 28.9 29 to 31.9 32 and over Weight Range (kgs)

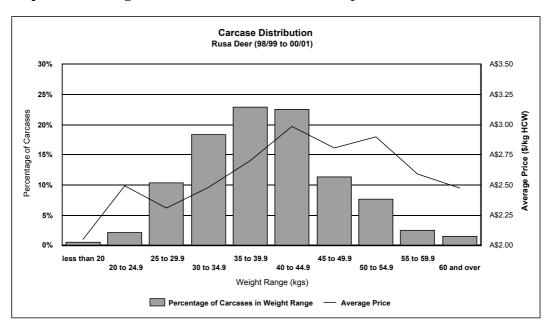
Graph 25 - Average Carcase Distribution and Price for Fallow Deer

Data for rusa deer is summarized in Graph 26. The graph shows that the greatest percentage of rusa deer sold have average carcase weights from 30 to 45 kilograms while the average price (\$/kg HCW) is greatest for carcases that weigh from 40 to 45 kilograms.

- Average Price

Percentage of Carcases in Weight Range

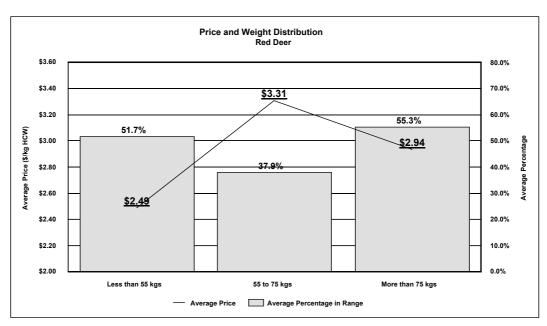
Although this data shows that the average carcase weight of rusa deer more closely matches the highest average carcase price achieved, returns to farmers could be improved by increasing the number of rusa deer carcases that are close to an 'ideal' weight of 40 to 55 kilograms.



Graph 26 - Average Carcase Distribution and Price for Rusa Deer

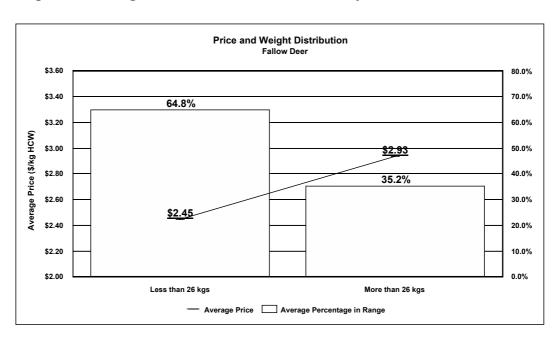
### Average Carcase Price for Ideal Weight Ranges

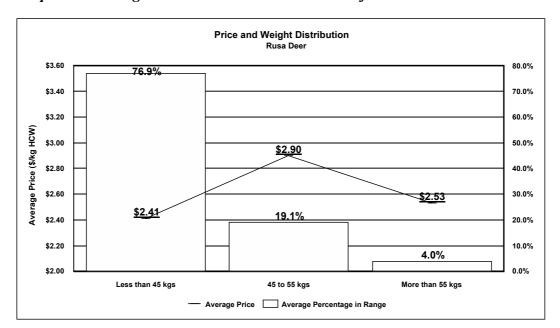
From average price data displayed in graphs 24, 25 and 26, prime weight ranges for red, fallow and rusa deer are 55 to 75 kgs, greater than 26 kgs and 45 to 55 kgs respectively. Graphs 27, 28 and 29 not only show the average percentage of carcases within the nominated prime weight range, less than the prime weight range and greater than the prime weight range for each species but also the average carcase price for carcases in each group for the years 1998/99 to 2000/01.



Graph 27 – Average Carcase Distribution and Price for Red Deer







Graph 29 - Average Carcase Distribution and Price for Rusa Deer

A cause for concern for each species is that more than 50% of carcases processed weigh less than the ideal weight range. The average reduction in price (\$/kg HCW) paid for carcases less than ideal weight during the years 1998/99 to 2000/01 is \$0.82, \$0.48 and \$0.59 for red, fallow and rusa deer carcases respectively.

The graphs for red and rusa deer also demonstrate that carcases that are heavier than ideal are also discounted, by an average of \$0.37 and \$0.37 respectively.

During the years 1998/99 to 2000/01 an average of only 37.9% of red, 35.2% of fallow and 19.1% of rusa deer carcases had weights within the ideal range for each species.

The dramatic difference in the prices paid to farmers for stock above and below 'ideal' carcass weights is obvious. When these price differences are considered in conjunction with the percentage of carcasses within weight ranges a new perspective on low grower returns is obvious. Clearly, a significant opportunity to improve average grower returns by improving average carcase weight is evident from this data.

### Farm Gate Value of Venison

The total farm gate value (\$/kg HCW) of venison produced by cooperating processors is shown in tables 1 to 4.

Table 1. Total Farm Gate Value of Venison

Year	Total Value	Average Value (\$/kg HCW)
1998/99	\$3.04M	\$2.30
1999/00	\$4.93M	\$2.69
2000/01	\$5.94M	\$3.54

Table 2. Farm Gate Value of Red Deer Venison

Year	Total Value	Average Value (\$/kg HCW)
1998/99	\$1.72M	\$2.44
1999/00	\$2.36M	\$2.71
2000/01	\$3.65M	\$3.79

Table 3. Farm Gate Value of Fallow Deer Venison

Year	Total Value	Average Value (\$/kg HCW)
1998/99	\$1.17M	\$2.16
1999/00	\$2.16M	\$2.64
2000/01	\$2.07M	\$3.18

Table 4. Farm Gate Value of Rusa Deer Venison

Year	Total Value	Average Value (\$/kg HCW)
1998/99	\$0.15M	\$1.91
1999/00	\$0.46M	\$2.84
2000/01	\$0.21M	\$3.30

### Venison Production Summary

A summary of Australia's venison production is shown in table 6 to 9 below.

Table 6. Total Volume of Venison Processed by Cooperating Processors

Year	Total Number	Total HCW (Tonnes)	Average HCW (Kg)
1998/99	36,570	1,323	35.8
1999/00	56,105	1,832	32.0
2000/01	45,757	1,679	35.3

Table 7. Red Deer Processed by Cooperating Processors

Year	Total Number	Total HCW (Tonnes)	Average HCW (Kgs)
1998/99	12,928	703	54.4
1999/00	17,140	870	50.7
2000/01	18,026	963	53.4

Table 8. Fallow Deer Processed by Cooperating Processors

Year	Total Number	Total HCW (Tonnes)	Average HCW (Kgs)
1998/99	22,128	542	24.5
1999/00	36,065	816	22.6
2000/01	27,647	651	23.5

Table 9. Rusa Deer Processed by Cooperating Processors

Year	Total Number	Total HCW (Tonnes)	Average HCW (Kgs)
1998/99	1,883	77	41.1
1999/00	3,952	147	37.1
2000/01	1,851	65	35.0

### Average Prices of Animals Sold for Venison

Tables 10 and 11 show the difference in the average price (not including deductions for the industry levy or other costs associated with transport) achieved by farmers for red and fallow deer of different live weights.

Table 10. Value of Red Deer Processed by Cooperating Processors (2000/2001)

Red Deer	HCW (kg)				
	45	55	65		
Jul-2000	\$134	\$191	\$286		
Aug-2000	\$140	\$204	\$299		
Sep-2000	\$158	\$218	\$276		
Oct-2000	\$170	\$224	\$277		
Nov-2000	\$153	\$222	\$276		
Dec-2000	\$154	\$216	\$280		
Jan-2001	\$147	\$196	\$274		
Feb-2001	\$169	\$217	\$279		
Mar-2001	\$165	\$242	\$293		
Apr-2001	\$212	\$264	\$358		
May-2001	\$157	\$197	\$301		
Jun-2001	\$164	\$194	\$329		

Table 11. Value of Fallow Deer Processed by Cooperating Processors 2000/2001)

F-II D	HCW (kg)			
Fallow Deer	20	24	28	
Jul-2000	\$55	\$71	\$103	
Aug-2000	\$56	\$68	\$89	
Sep-2000	\$57	\$76	\$95	
Oct-2000	\$59	\$79	\$98	
Nov-2000	\$54	\$76	\$93	
Dec-2000	\$56	\$80	\$104	
Jan-2001	\$55	\$78	\$103	
Feb-2001	\$55	\$77	\$107	
Mar-2001	\$63	\$81	\$93	
Apr-2001	\$68	\$73	\$89	
May-2001	\$59	\$77	\$86	
Jun-2001	\$66	\$78	\$89	

As can be seen by the data in the tables, the average increase in farmer returns achieved for red deer carcases from each increase of 10 kilograms of carcase weight from 45 to 65 kg during 2000/2001 was about \$55.00 or \$5.50 per kilogram. Similarly, the average increase in farmer returns achieved for fallow deer carcases from each increase of 4 kilograms of carcase weight from 20 to 28 kg during 2000/2001 was about \$20.00 or \$5.00 per kilogram

The obvious effect of the improvement in carcase weight is an increase farmer returns and an increased profitability.

### Some Venison Market Comparisons

Farmers receive at least 15% less for venison sold on for processing in domestic only abattoir compared to that sold for processing export-licensed abattoirs. Graphs 14 and 15 provide an indication of how much less domestic consumers are prepared to pay for venison and perhaps contribute to the understanding of why most Australian venison is exported.

Data presented in graph 16 suggests that the majority of venison consumed domestically in Australia is sourced from fallow deer.

### Venison Price Variations

The range between maximum and minimum price paid for red deer venison is greater than that recorded for fallow deer venison. The mean variation above (maximum price) the average price per kilogram was about the same for both species (about \$0.65/kg) while the mean variation below (minimum price) the average was about \$1.05 for red deer and \$0.85 for fallow deer.

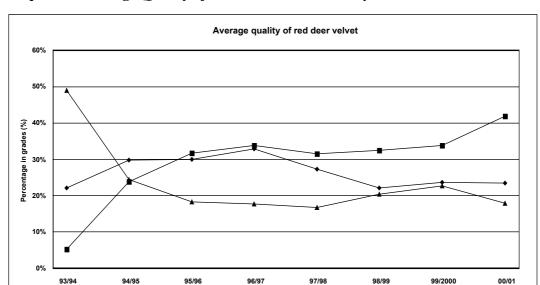
### Velvet antler

### Quality

The National Velvet Accreditation Scheme (NVAS) developed by the Deer Industry Association of Australia and the Australian Veterinary Association, is designed to ensure that those people directly involved in the removal of velvet antler from deer are appropriately trained and competent to remove the antler. Accreditation includes training in the use of drugs, animal welfare, harvesting techniques, and quality assurance handling of velvet that has been harvested.

A measure of the success of the scheme, in terms of the quality of the velvet sold by the industry operated velvet pools (ADH), is the change in percentage of velvet classified in higher and lower value categories.

Graph 30 shows the variation in quality of velvet beginning with the 1993/94 season for velvet sold by ADH.

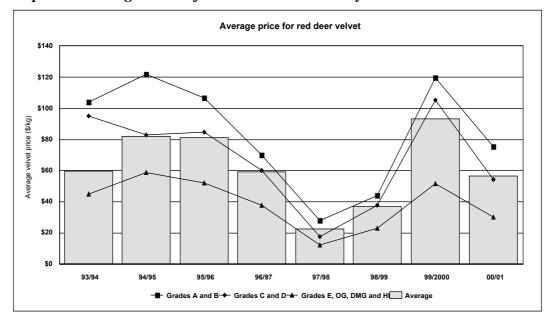


Graph 30 - Average Quality of Red Deer Velvet Sold by ADH

Of the red deer velvet antler sold by the ADH from the 1993/94 pools, approximately 5.3% was classified within the top four grades (A and B). Another 22.1% was classified in the second two grades (C and D). Of the remainder, approximately 49.8% was classified as either E grade, overgrown (OG), damaged (DMG) or hard horn (HH). The remaining velvet was classified as either regrowth (RG), Taiwanese (TW) or Spiker (SP) velvet.

Grades A and B → Grades C and D → Grades E, OG, DMG, HH

Using the same grouping of quality classifications the red deer velvet antler sold by ADH from the 2000/01 pools can be regarded as significantly better quality. Almost 42% was classified as either A or B grade, almost 23% as C or D grade and less than 18% as either E, OG, DMG or HH grades. These data show a significant increase in the percentage of velvet sold that is graded into the top four grades and a reciprocal decrease in the less desirable qualities.



Graph 31 - Average Value of Red Deer Velvet Sold by ADH

Graph 31 shows how the average value of high and poor quality velvet has changed since the 1993/94 season. The most obvious factor that can be identified from the graph is that as average price increases the difference between the price realised for better and poorer quality velvet increases.

Conversely, when prices are poor there is less difference between the average price of the top four grades and other velvet.

Although the Australian industry can demonstrate its improvement in average velvet quality, most observers suggest the average quality of velvet offered for sale can improve still further.

Average velvet prices have improved in recent years as shown by data above however the velvet antler industry is likely to remain volatile. The international production of velvet antler, and its availability to national markets, has continued to rise in recent years. The increase has been principally due to increasing production in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Annual production of velvet antler can be dramatically reduced by slaughtering male stock or increased after a lag period by retaining male stock.

### 6. IMPLICATIONS

Australian deer farmers should seek to maintain and improve their average returns by concentrating their efforts on factors they can easily influence and rely on those involved in marketing products to access and develop those markets.

Data presented in the report clearly shows the significant reduction in farmer returns that result for processing animals with less than ideal carcase weight. The principal factor that the industry should consider in an effort to improve returns to growers is to improve the average quality of stock committed for processing. This is especially important, as factors that are most responsible for the relatively high venison prices currently experienced by the industry, are factors over which it has no control (relatively low value of the Australian dollar and BSE influenced high European demand caused by preference for red meat other than beef). If the effect of these uncontrollable influences changes, farmer returns may fall unless the average quality (carcase weight) of animals processed improves.

As described in the results and discussion sectors of this report, herd growth and production estimates can be significantly affected by average reproductive performance of the national herd and the rate at which female stock are culled from the herd. Although data collected on the industry herd, its structure and its reproductive performance are not perfect they do allow the development of reasonable production forecasts.

Further, a planned approach to extension programs aimed at increasing production from large commercial herds (those large enough to provide a reasonable standard of living for its owners) should be a priority. Programs that include ideal nutrition management and management timing of animal sales to provide entire males, castrates and females for processing throughout the year, should improve the average carcase weight of deer processed and subsequently returns to farmers.

Collectively, the industry's producers can play a major role in improving their returns by adopting and promoting the Industry Quality Assurance (QA) program and encouraging processors to discount payments made to growers who do not embrace the program. Adoption of the QA program and development of strategic alliances with marketers to supply stock that meet defined specifications, can only help to stabilise venison returns to growers.

Although an immediate commitment to the Quality Assurance program may not specifically provide new market opportunities and produce an immediate increase in the average venison price, it is fair to say without the commitment, future access to most international and domestic markets is likely to be severely restricted.

Specifications for the industry quality marks have been developed by this project and have been registered by the Deer Industry Company on behalf of the DIAA. The Trade Practices Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission have almost finished their review of the specifications.

Individual producers, transporters and processors will be able to access the Marks that will be made available under licence by the DIAA. Industry is hopeful that the mark will become increasingly recognised in international and domestic markets as a symbol of quality that is backed by a commitment of all industry sectors to ensure that products consistently meet or exceed consumer expectations.

The venison statistics program VenStat, developed as part of this project, will be made available, for a fee, to Australian venison processors on the understanding they will provide summary venison statistics that the program produces to a central database for analysis and dissemination to industry.

VenStat will be advertised and promoted at the August 2001 Australian Deer Industry Conference and will be promoted to potential international clients at the Fourth World Deer Conference in the USA (Texas) in February 2002.

### 7. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The industry should actively encourage the use of the VenStat program by all venison processors and make it available to all Australian processors at a price that encourages them to use it.

The statistical information collected and analysed by this project is objective data that will be useful to demonstrate the continuing improvement in market prices and positive market information to potential new industry participants.

Data collected by the VenStat program will add to the Industry's growing database and provide detail not previously collected on sex of animals processed and in the future details about condition score, age at slaughter and amount of bruising. This information is vital requirement for planning marketing and production strategies and for identifying quality assurance issues that can influence farmer returns.

The VenStat program will allow processors to more fully report information about each animal processed to growers.

2. The Australian industry must actively adopt and promote its quality assurance program that is aimed to give consumer confidence in Australia's production and the deer industry generally

There are many international and local examples of the importance of industry managed quality assurance programs. To ensure growth of international market outlets the Australian industry must actively adopt and promote its quality assurance program that is aimed to give consumer confidence in Australia's production and the deer industry generally.

3. A range of strategies should be considered to improve the average hot carcase weight of deer processed in Australia

Data produced by this project shows a considerable discount in farmer returns for venison that does not meet ideal weight specifications. Although natural seasonal influences affect the hot carcase weight of deer, inadequate nutrition is a major reason for inadequate hot carcase weight.

Current venison prices are principally a function of factors that are beyond industry control and average venison quality (as determined by average hot carcase weight data) has changed little since April 1998. To provide a more stable basis for venison prices the average hot carcase weight venison must be improved and the variation around the average must be reduced.

Research in Australia and New Zealand along with the wide variation in hot carcase weight of animals processed in Australian abattoirs suggests that improved producer management of deer can improve aspects of poor carcase quality.

Strategies that should be considered include:

- (i) Bench Marking of a series of properties to demonstrate management techniques to achieve ideal carcase weight;
- (ii) Detailed cost benefit analysis of achieving ideal hot carcase weight;
- (iii) Training of Australian deer farmers and processors in live body condition score (BCS) assessment of deer;
- (iv) A continuation of the regular and open reporting of market information to industry.

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### **APPENDIX 1 – Venison Price Schedule Calculator Output**

Sample out puts for Red Deer calculations

### RED DEER STANDARD CARCASE PRICE CALCULATOR

Standard HSCW [kgs] 5	55.0	Currency Units	DM

Break Down of Standard [55.0] kgs Carcase

Cut	STD Yield	Weight	CIF	Total CIF value	Exchange	Total Value
	%	[kgs]	[DM/kg]	[DM]	Rate	AUD\$
Striploin	7.0%	3.850	20.00	77.00	Value	\$59.69
Tenderloin	1.5%	0.825	10.00	8.25	of	\$6.40
Leg cuts	18.0%	9.900	10.00	99.00	AUD\$1.00	\$76.74
Heel Muscle	1.0%	0.550	10.00	5.50	in	\$4.26
Osso Bucco	2.3%	1.265	7.00	8.86	Selected	\$6.86
Boneless Shoulder, Shank On	17.5%	9.625	7.00	67.38	Currency (DM)	\$52.23
Boneless Neck	2.5%	1.375	5.00	6.88	1.29	\$5.33
Spare Ribs	3.0%	1.650	5.00	8.25		\$6.40
Diced Goulash	5.0%	2.750	4.95	13.61		\$10.55
Flank and Brisket	12.2%	6.710	5.00	33.55		\$26.01
	0.0%	0.000	0.00	0.00		\$0.00
	0.0%	0.000	0.00	0.00		\$0.00
	0.0%	0.000	0.00	0.00		\$0.00
	0.0%	0.000	0.00	0.00		\$0.00
Bones, Fat, Waste, Shrinkage	30.0%	16.500	0.00	0.00		\$0.00
Total	100.0%	55.000		328.27		\$254.47

**Summary Calculations** 

Production and marketing costs	Unit cost	Total cost
Standard Freight cost (\$/kg)	\$0.40	\$15.40
Slaughter cost (\$/head)	\$45.00	\$45.00
Boning and Packaging (\$/kg HSCW)	\$1.30	\$71.50
Marketing(% of CIF value)	3.0%	\$8.35

Net Meat Value of HSCW		\$114.22
Net Value of Recoveries		
Skin	\$8.00	
Tails	\$10.00	
Sinews	\$3.00	
Pizzles	\$3.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Other	\$0.00	
Total Recoveries		\$24.00
Total Net Value of Standard Carcase		\$138.22

Processing/Marketing cost for standard carcase	\$2.55
Farmers schedule price for standard carcase	\$2.51

### **STANDARD PRICE SCHEDULE CALCULATOR (Page 1)**

### RED DEER PREMIUM SPECIFICATION AND PRICE SCHEDULE CALCULATOR

Price code

Direct (Own) value or Model defined value ? (O/M)

Price

Direct input (\$/kg HSCW)	\$3.00
Model defined (\$/kg HSCW)	\$2.51

Specification

opoomounom		
Sex	m	Male
Condition Score	3	Prime
Weight Range	7	55.0 - 59.9

Code

24

\$/kg HSCW \$2.51

**DISCOUNTS** 

[Percent above (+ value) and below (- value) premium value] [Percentage in cell relating to premium specification must = 0%]

SEX

Code	Class	Percent
m	MALE	0.0%
f	FEMALE	-5.0%
С	CASTRATE	-2.5%

**Premium** 

Percent

-52.0%

-35.0%

0.0 - 30.0 30.0 - 34.9 -35.0% 2 35.0 - 39.9 3 -20.0% 40.0 - 44.9 -10.0% 4 5 45.0 - 49.9 -5.0% 0.0% 6 50.0 - 54.9 7 55.0 - 59.9 0.0% 8 -5.0% 60.0 - 64.9 9

**HOT STANDARD CARCASE WEIGHT** Class

Premium

COND	ITION	SCORE
------	-------	-------

Code	Class	Percent
1	Emaciated	-100.0%
2	Store	-10.0%
3	Prime	0.0%
4	Fat	-10.0%
5	Over Fat	-25.0%

**Premium** 

-10.0% 65.0 - 69.9 70.0 - 74.9 10 -20.0% 75.0 - 79.9 -30.0% 11 12 80.0 - 84.9 -35.0% -35.0% 13 85.0 - 89.9 14 90.0 - 94.9 -35.0% 15 95.0 - 99.9 -35.0% 16 100.0 - 104.9 -35.0% 17 105.0 - 109.9 -35.0% 18 110.0 - 114.9 -35.0% 115.0 - 119.9 -35.0% 19 20 120.0 - 124.9 -35.0% 21 125.0 - 129.9 -35.0% 22 130.0 - 134.9 -35.0% 23 135.0 - 139.9 -35.0%

140.0 - 1000.0

### **STANDARD PRICE SCHEDULE CALCULATOR (Page 2)**

RED DEER PRICE	SCHEDULE	[\$/KG HS	cw]		Male	Return	Costs	Max
Live		Conditi	on Score			from	of	Farm
Weight	1	2	3	4	5	Meat	Processing	Payment
Range	Emaciated	Store	Prime	Fat	Over Fat	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW
0.0 - 30.0	NV	\$0.12	\$0.16	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$5.06	\$4.73	\$0.33
30.0 - 34.9	NV	\$1.07	\$1.26	\$1.07	\$0.78	\$5.06	\$3.12	\$1.94
35.0 - 39.9	NV	\$1.49	\$1.70	\$1.49	\$1.17	\$5.06	\$2.93	\$2.13
40.0 - 44.9	NV	\$1.81	\$2.04	\$1.81	\$1.47	\$5.06	\$2.79	\$2.27
45.0 - 49.9	NV	\$2.02	\$2.26	\$2.02	\$1.67	\$5.06	\$2.68	\$2.38
50.0 - 54.9	NV	\$2.22	\$2.47	\$2.22	\$1.85	\$5.06	\$2.59	\$2.47
55.0 - 59.9	NV	\$2.29	\$2.54	\$2.29	\$1.91	\$5.06	\$2.52	\$2.54
60.0 - 64.9	NV	\$2.22	\$2.48	\$2.22	\$1.83	\$5.06	\$2.45	\$2.61
65.0 - 69.9	NV	\$2.13	\$2.39	\$2.13	\$1.73	\$5.06	\$2.40	\$2.66
70.0 - 74.9	NV	\$1.89	\$2.17	\$1.89	\$1.49	\$5.06	\$2.35	\$2.71
75.0 - 79.9	NV	\$1.65	\$1.92	\$1.65	\$1.24	\$5.06	\$2.31	\$2.75
80.0 - 84.9	NV	\$1.53	\$1.81	\$1.53	\$1.11	\$5.06	\$2.28	\$2.78
85.0 - 89.9	NV	\$1.55	\$1.83	\$1.55	\$1.13	\$5.06	\$2.25	\$2.81
90.0 - 94.9	NV	\$1.56	\$1.85	\$1.56	\$1.14	\$5.06	\$2.22	\$2.84
95.0 - 99.9	NV	\$1.58	\$1.86	\$1.58	\$1.15	\$5.06	\$2.19	\$2.87
100.0 - 104.9	NV	\$1.59	\$1.88	\$1.59	\$1.16	\$5.06	\$2.17	\$2.89
105.0 - 109.9	NV	\$1.60	\$1.89	\$1.60	\$1.16	\$5.06	\$2.15	\$2.91
110.0 - 114.9	NV	\$1.61	\$1.90	\$1.61	\$1.17	\$5.06	\$2.13	\$2.93
115.0 - 119.9	NV	\$1.62	\$1.91	\$1.62	\$1.18	\$5.06	\$2.12	\$2.94
120.0 - 124.9	NV	\$1.63	\$1.92	\$1.63	\$1.18	\$5.06	\$2.10	\$2.96
125.0 - 129.9	NV	\$1.64	\$1.93	\$1.64	\$1.19	\$5.06	\$2.08	\$2.98
130.0 - 134.9	NV	\$1.64	\$1.94	\$1.64	\$1.20	\$5.06	\$2.07	\$2.99
135.0 - 139.9	NV	\$1.65	\$1.95	\$1.65	\$1.20	\$5.06	\$2.06	\$3.00
140.0 - 1000.0	NV	\$1.79	\$2.11	\$1.79	\$1.30	\$5.06	\$1.81	\$3.25

### STANDARD PRICE SCHEDULE CALCULATOR (Page 3)

RED DEER PRICE SCH	HEDULE [	\$/KG HSCV	<b>V</b> ]		Female	Return	Costs	Max
Live		Conditio	n Score			from	of	Farm
Weight	1	2	3	4	5	Meat	Processing	Payment
Range	Emaciated	Store	Prime	Fat	Over Fat	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW
0.0 - 30.0	NV	\$0.11	\$0.14	\$0.11	\$0.06	\$5.06	\$4.73	\$0.33
30.0 - 34.9	NV	\$0.97	\$1.16	\$0.97	\$0.68	\$5.06	\$3.12	\$1.94
35.0 - 39.9	NV	\$1.38	\$1.59	\$1.38	\$1.06	\$5.06	\$2.93	\$2.13
40.0 - 44.9	NV	\$1.70	\$1.93	\$1.70	\$1.36	\$5.06	\$2.79	\$2.27
45.0 - 49.9	NV	\$1.90	\$2.14	\$1.90	\$1.55	\$5.06	\$2.68	\$2.38
50.0 - 54.9	NV	\$2.10	\$2.35	\$2.10	\$1.73	\$5.06	\$2.59	\$2.47
55.0 - 59.9	NV	\$2.16	\$2.42	\$2.16	\$1.78	\$5.06	\$2.52	\$2.54
60.0 - 64.9	NV	\$2.09	\$2.35	\$2.09	\$1.69	\$5.06	\$2.45	\$2.61
65.0 - 69.9	NV	\$2.00	\$2.26	\$2.00	\$1.60	\$5.06	\$2.40	\$2.66
70.0 - 74.9	NV	\$1.76	\$2.03	\$1.76	\$1.35	\$5.06	\$2.35	\$2.71
75.0 - 79.9	NV	\$1.51	\$1.79	\$1.51	\$1.10	\$5.06	\$2.31	\$2.75
80.0 - 84.9	NV	\$1.39	\$1.67	\$1.39	\$0.97	\$5.06	\$2.28	\$2.78
85.0 - 89.9	NV	\$1.41	\$1.69	\$1.41	\$0.98	\$5.06	\$2.25	\$2.81
90.0 - 94.9	NV	\$1.42	\$1.70	\$1.42	\$0.99	\$5.06	\$2.22	\$2.84
95.0 - 99.9	NV	\$1.43	\$1.72	\$1.43	\$1.00	\$5.06	\$2.19	\$2.87
100.0 - 104.9	NV	\$1.44	\$1.73	\$1.44	\$1.01	\$5.06	\$2.17	\$2.89
105.0 - 109.9	NV	\$1.45	\$1.75	\$1.45	\$1.02	\$5.06	\$2.15	\$2.91
110.0 - 114.9	NV	\$1.46	\$1.76	\$1.46	\$1.02	\$5.06	\$2.13	\$2.93
115.0 - 119.9	NV	\$1.47	\$1.77	\$1.47	\$1.03	\$5.06	\$2.12	\$2.94
120.0 - 124.9	NV	\$1.48	\$1.78	\$1.48	\$1.04	\$5.06	\$2.10	\$2.96
125.0 - 129.9	NV	\$1.49	\$1.79	\$1.49	\$1.04	\$5.06	\$2.08	\$2.98
130.0 - 134.9	NV	\$1.49	\$1.79	\$1.49	\$1.05	\$5.06	\$2.07	\$2.99
135.0 - 139.9	NV	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$1.50	\$1.05	\$5.06	\$2.06	\$3.00
140.0 - 1000.0	NV	\$1.62	\$1.95	\$1.62	\$1.14	\$5.06	\$1.81	\$3.25

### STANDARD PRICE SCHEDULE CALCULATOR (Page 4)

RED DEER PRICE	SCHEDULI	E [\$/KG H	ISCW]		Castrate	Return	Costs	Max
Live		Condition	on Score			from	of	Farm
Weight	1	2	3	4	5	Meat	Processing	Payment
Range	Emaciated	Store	Prime	Fat	Over Fat	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW	\$/kg HSCW
0.0 - 30.0	NV	\$0.12	\$0.15	\$0.12	\$0.07	\$5.06	\$4.73	\$0.33
30.0 - 34.9	NV	\$1.02	\$1.21	\$1.02	\$0.73	\$5.06	\$3.12	\$1.94
35.0 - 39.9	NV	\$1.44	\$1.65	\$1.44	\$1.12	\$5.06	\$2.93	\$2.13
40.0 - 44.9	NV	\$1.76	\$1.98	\$1.76	\$1.42	\$5.06	\$2.79	\$2.27
45.0 - 49.9	NV	\$1.96	\$2.20	\$1.96	\$1.61	\$5.06	\$2.68	\$2.38
50.0 - 54.9	NV	\$2.16	\$2.41	\$2.16	\$1.79	\$5.06	\$2.59	\$2.47
55.0 - 59.9	NV	\$2.23	\$2.48	\$2.23	\$1.84	\$5.06	\$2.52	\$2.54
60.0 - 64.9	NV	\$2.15	\$2.41	\$2.15	\$1.76	\$5.06	\$2.45	\$2.61
65.0 - 69.9	NV	\$2.06	\$2.33	\$2.06	\$1.66	\$5.06	\$2.40	\$2.66
70.0 - 74.9	NV	\$1.83	\$2.10	\$1.83	\$1.42	\$5.06	\$2.35	\$2.71
75.0 - 79.9	NV	\$1.58	\$1.85	\$1.58	\$1.17	\$5.06	\$2.31	\$2.75
80.0 - 84.9	NV	\$1.46	\$1.74	\$1.46	\$1.04	\$5.06	\$2.28	\$2.78
85.0 - 89.9	NV	\$1.48	\$1.76	\$1.48	\$1.06	\$5.06	\$2.25	\$2.81
90.0 - 94.9	NV	\$1.49	\$1.78	\$1.49	\$1.07	\$5.06	\$2.22	\$2.84
95.0 - 99.9	NV	\$1.50	\$1.79	\$1.50	\$1.07	\$5.06	\$2.19	\$2.87
100.0 - 104.9	NV	\$1.52	\$1.81	\$1.52	\$1.08	\$5.06	\$2.17	\$2.89
105.0 - 109.9	NV	\$1.53	\$1.82	\$1.53	\$1.09	\$5.06	\$2.15	\$2.91
110.0 - 114.9	NV	\$1.54	\$1.83	\$1.54	\$1.10	\$5.06	\$2.13	\$2.93
115.0 - 119.9	NV	\$1.55	\$1.84	\$1.55	\$1.10	\$5.06	\$2.12	\$2.94
120.0 - 124.9	NV	\$1.55	\$1.85	\$1.55	\$1.11	\$5.06	\$2.10	\$2.96
125.0 - 129.9	NV	\$1.56	\$1.86	\$1.56	\$1.12	\$5.06	\$2.08	\$2.98
130.0 - 134.9	NV	\$1.57	\$1.87	\$1.57	\$1.12	\$5.06	\$2.07	\$2.99
135.0 - 139.9	NV	\$1.58	\$1.88	\$1.58	\$1.13	\$5.06	\$2.06	\$3.00
140.0 - 1000.0	NV	\$1.71	\$2.03	\$1.71	\$1.22	\$5.06	\$1.81	\$3.25

### **RED DEER WEIGHT RANGE SPECIFICATION**

Lowest Weight in Range         Maximum Weight in Range           0.0         30.0           30.0         34.9           35.0         39.9           40.0         44.9           45.0         49.9           50.0         54.9           55.0         59.9           60.0         64.9           65.0         79.9           80.0         84.9           85.0         89.9           90.0         94.9           95.0         99.9           100.0         104.9           105.0         109.9           110.0         114.9           125.0         129.9           130.0         134.9           135.0         139.9           140.0         1000.0	HSCW					
Range         Range           0.0         30.0           30.0         34.9           35.0         39.9           40.0         44.9           45.0         49.9           50.0         54.9           55.0         59.9           60.0         64.9           65.0         69.9           70.0         74.9           75.0         79.9           80.0         84.9           85.0         89.9           90.0         94.9           95.0         99.9           100.0         104.9           105.0         109.9           110.0         114.9           115.0         119.9           120.0         124.9           125.0         129.9           130.0         134.9           135.0         139.9	Lowest	Maximum				
0.0       30.0         30.0       34.9         35.0       39.9         40.0       44.9         45.0       49.9         50.0       54.9         55.0       59.9         60.0       64.9         65.0       69.9         70.0       74.9         75.0       79.9         80.0       84.9         85.0       89.9         90.0       94.9         95.0       99.9         100.0       104.9         115.0       119.9         120.0       124.9         125.0       129.9         130.0       134.9         135.0       139.9	Weight in	Weight in				
30.0     34.9       35.0     39.9       40.0     44.9       45.0     49.9       50.0     54.9       55.0     59.9       60.0     64.9       65.0     69.9       70.0     74.9       75.0     79.9       80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	Range	Range				
35.0     39.9       40.0     44.9       45.0     49.9       50.0     54.9       55.0     59.9       60.0     64.9       65.0     69.9       70.0     74.9       75.0     79.9       80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	0.0	30.0				
40.0       44.9         45.0       49.9         50.0       54.9         55.0       59.9         60.0       64.9         65.0       69.9         70.0       74.9         75.0       79.9         80.0       84.9         85.0       89.9         90.0       94.9         95.0       99.9         100.0       104.9         105.0       109.9         110.0       114.9         115.0       119.9         120.0       124.9         125.0       129.9         130.0       134.9         135.0       139.9	30.0	34.9				
45.0     49.9       50.0     54.9       55.0     59.9       60.0     64.9       65.0     69.9       70.0     74.9       75.0     79.9       80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	35.0	39.9				
50.0     54.9       55.0     59.9       60.0     64.9       65.0     69.9       70.0     74.9       75.0     79.9       80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	40.0	44.9				
55.0     59.9       60.0     64.9       65.0     69.9       70.0     74.9       75.0     79.9       80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	45.0	49.9				
60.0 64.9 65.0 69.9 70.0 74.9 75.0 79.9 80.0 84.9 85.0 89.9 90.0 94.9 95.0 99.9 100.0 104.9 105.0 109.9 110.0 114.9 115.0 119.9 120.0 124.9 125.0 129.9 130.0 134.9 135.0 139.9	50.0	54.9				
65.0 69.9  70.0 74.9  75.0 79.9  80.0 84.9  85.0 89.9  90.0 94.9  95.0 99.9  100.0 104.9  105.0 109.9  110.0 114.9  120.0 124.9  125.0 129.9  130.0 134.9  135.0 139.9	55.0	59.9				
70.0 74.9 75.0 79.9 80.0 84.9 85.0 89.9 90.0 94.9 95.0 99.9 100.0 104.9 105.0 109.9 110.0 114.9 115.0 119.9 120.0 124.9 125.0 129.9 130.0 134.9 135.0 139.9	60.0	64.9				
75.0 79.9  80.0 84.9  85.0 89.9  90.0 94.9  95.0 99.9  100.0 104.9  105.0 109.9  110.0 114.9  115.0 119.9  120.0 124.9  125.0 129.9  130.0 134.9  135.0 139.9	65.0	69.9				
80.0     84.9       85.0     89.9       90.0     94.9       95.0     99.9       100.0     104.9       105.0     109.9       110.0     114.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	70.0	74.9				
85.0 89.9  90.0 94.9  95.0 99.9  100.0 104.9  105.0 109.9  110.0 114.9  120.0 124.9  125.0 129.9  130.0 134.9  135.0 139.9	75.0	79.9				
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110.0     114.9       115.0     119.9       120.0     124.9       125.0     129.9       130.0     134.9       135.0     139.9	100.0	104.9				
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130.0 134.9 135.0 139.9	120.0	124.9				
135.0 139.9	125.0	129.9				
17717	130.0	134.9				
140.0 1000.0	135.0	139.9				
	140.0	1000.0				

# APPENDIX 2 - Estimation of the number of deer processed

Data collected by the project includes the total hot carcase weight (HCW) of venison processed by species and within weight ranges. The information is collected from most processors and is believed to represent at least 90% of all venison processed within Australia. To estimate the number of animals processed, an average HCW weight was determined for each weight range of each species. The total HCW for each weight range was divided by the average HCW for the range to provide an estimate of the number of animals processed within that weight range for that species.

Table 12. HCW (kgs) ranges and average used for Red and Hybrid deer.

Lower limit	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	09	9	70	75	08	85	06	95	100
Upper limit	29.9 34.9	34.9	39.9	44.9	49.9	54.9	59.9	64.9	6.69	74.9	6.62	84.9	6.68	94.9	6.66	120.0
Average used	27.45	32.45	27.45   32.45   37.45   42.45   47.45	42.45	47.45	52.45	57.45	62.45	67.45 72.45	72.45	77.45 82.45	82.45	87.45	87.45 92.45 97.45	97.45	1111.0

le 13. HCW (kgs) ranges and average used for Fallow deer.

Lower limit	91	20	23	56	56	32
Upper limit	19.9	22.9	25.9	28.9	31.9	34.9
Average used	17.95	21.45	24.45	27.45	30.45	33.45

14. HCW (kgs) ranges and average used for Rusa deer

Lower limit	20	25	30	35	40	45	20	<b>SS</b>	09
Upper limit	24.9	29.9	34.9	39.9	44.9	49.9	54.9	6.65	06
Average used	22.45	27.45 32.45	32.45	37.45	42.45	47.45	52.45	57.45	75

## APPENDIX 3 – Deer Industry Contacts Database

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SURNAME	LOFT	MACDONALD	MACLURE	MAHONEY	MAHONEY	MARSDEN	McCORMICK	MCEWEN	MCGHIE	McVILLY	MCWALIERS	METHERELL	MILBORNE	S	MOIR	MORGAN	MORRISON	MORRISON	MORSE	MULLEY	NEWING	NICHOLS	NICHOLSON	PATTERSON	PEDERSEN	PHELPS	PHILIPS	PIGGOL	POINTON	PAESIDENIE	RANKIN	RFINBOTT	RICHARDSON	ROBERTS	ISSUE	ABATTOIDS	ANTIFR	VELVET	AQIS	BONING
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NAME	ROB	ERN	NOS	CRAIG	ANNE	BILL	PATRICIA	ROWAN	ANTHONY	WILLIAM	MAKK	GLENN		GERHARD	AI AN	LIONEL	JEFFREY	HOGH	DR SUE	TONY	RUDY	NHOC	PETER	RAYMOND	DR PENNY	RAY	IAN j	SIEVE			NAW MAX	GRAHAM	PETER	TONY						
SURNAME	HARLEY	HARRISON	HAYES	HAZELDENE	990H	HOOGWAERTS	HOWARD	HOWATSON	НОУ	HUGHES	HUISMAN	HURLEY	CANOEN	LESKE	IOHNSON	JOHNSTON	JONES	JONES	JOUBERT	KAPPELLER	KELLER	KELLY	KENNEDY	KENNINGTON	KING	KINNERSLEY	KNOX	LAMPLOUGH	LANG	LAWRENCE	FONE		21	LITLE						_
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NAME	RICHARD	GREG	PETER	IVAN	ANDY	RON	ANDREW	NHOP	DES	ELIZABETH	BAKKY	DR LAURIE	MARK	NOR RON	<u>\</u>	AN	DR MATT	DRKEN	DR GORDON	RUSELL	BRIAN	DR TONY	KEN	TRAVIS	DR JASON	HELEN	CHARLES	MAKK			SPENCER		PALII	DR ANDREW	NAME	2		COLIN	JONATHAN	NEIL
SURNAME	COFFIN	COLLINS	CORE	COULTER	COWAN	CROWDEN	CUPIT	DAVIS	DELAINE	DELANEY	DEMPSEY	DENHOLM	DENNIS	DEPORTER	DOCKRIL	DOWSETT	DRAISMA	DREW	DRYDEN	DURNAN	ELLIOTT	ENGLISH	EZZEY	FLENS	FLESCH	FRY	GALL	GILLESPIE	GOORLET	GRAINGER	GRIGGS	GIENTHER	HAMII TON	HANSEN	SURNAME	MAI TEDS		WARD	WEBBER	WECKEKI
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SURNAME	ABEL	ADAMS	ALLEN	ALLEN	ANDERSON	ANDREW	ANDREWS	ASHER	AUSTIN	BAKER	BARNES	BARK	DATICEDED	BECKWITH	BENNETT	BERTUCH	BLAMPIED	BLANDEN	BOLT	BRIGGANS	BRYANT	BURKE	CAMPBELL	CAMPBELL	CAMPION	CARR	CAVEDON	CHAMBERLAIN			CHEN H	CLARK	CLARK	COCHRANE	SURNAME	210300	NOCEN S	ROBERTSON	ROBINSON	ROLFE

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WEEKS	WEEL WEST WHITE	WHITE WHITE	WIESELMAN	WILKINSON	WILLIAMS	WILSON WINKLER	WINTERBOTT	WRINGLEY								
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ALISON	DR YINGJUN GARY DEBBIE		MALCOLM	TERRY	JACK	SOLANGE HENRY	JERRY	STEPHEN I & M JOHN	ROWENA	GARRY	MILTON	DR JOHN HANS	LIZ	NEIL CHRIS	LYNELLE	JEFF DAVID MEG BRIAN DEBBIE
ROWLANDS	RU RUDDICK RULE	RUMBLE RUNDELL	SCIFLEET	SCIFLEET	SEMENI	SHAPIRO SHAPIRO	SHAWCROSS	SINCLAIR SIRRETT SKINNER	SMITH	SMITH	STEVENS	THOMPSON THONIC	TICKNER	TRESIDDER TUCKWELL	TUME	VARCOE WALKER WALKER WALKER WALSH

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DEER BLOODTYPING
DEER
EQUIPMENT
DEER ORGANIZATIONS
DEER
PRODUCTS
DIAA
ET & AI SPECIALISTS

Contacts - Page 1

COMPANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST PC P	HONE FAX MC	OBILE EM	AIL
ABATTOIRS DOMESTIC COWARAMUP ABATTOIR ST CLAIR STRATH MEATS PTY LTD	JACK CHRIS NEIL	SEMENI WILKINSON WECKERT	C/o POST OFFICE PO BOX 111 ASHBOURNE ROAD	COWARAMUP WONTHAGGI STRATHALBYN	WA 6284 VIC 3995 SA 5255	08 9755 5360 08 9755 5361 03 5674 9220 08 8536 2366		
EXPORT  AUSTRALIAN GAME MEATS  AUSTRALIAN GAME PROCESSORS CHERBOURG SPECIALIST MEAT GATEWAY MEATS (WAKERIE) MEAMIST MUDGEE NORVIC FOOD PROCESORS PTY LTD THE EMU COMPANY WAMMCO (WA MEAT MARKETING CO-OP)	, ,	ROD MACLURE IAN MILBURNE ALAN JOHNSON HANS THONIC BARRY DEMPSEY MALCOLM SCIFLET JON HAYES ROBERT CAVEDON ALBERT BAKER	54 HAZELGROVE ROAD RMB 1024 272 HAWKESBURY ROAD 14 ORLEANA STREET PO BOX 297 PO BOX 637 HUGHES LANE GPO BOX X2309	OBERON WYCHEPROOF MOGGILL FLAGSTAFF HILL CABOOLTURE MUDGEE WODONGA EUROBIN	NSW 2787 (VIC 3527 OLD 4070 SA 5159 OLD 4510 NSW 2850 VIC 3689 VIC 3739 WA 6001	02 6336 1274 02 6336 1274 0412 308 203 03 5493 7557 03 5493 7449 07 3202 6429 08 8371 4233 0419 977 080 02 5495 3711 07 5495 5727 02 632 577 02 632 575 02 6024 1077 02 6035 6156 03 5756 2999 03 5756 2812 08 9420 020 08 9481 3026	112 308 203 119 977 080	agp@ruralnet.net.au meramist@one.net.au
ANTLER VELVET, DEER HORN ADP PHARMACEUTICALS AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS DAVID BILBY INTERNATIONAL TONG REN TANG	DENNIS DON IS DAVID ALAN JOHN	WHITE MACDONALD WALKER CHAPMAN	144 GORMAN ROAD PO BOX 1211 TARWIN ROAD 592 NORTHEAST ROAD 16-20 SULTRAM PLACE	GOULBURN NOOSA INVERLOCH HOLDEN HILL ADELAIDE	NSW 2580 QLD 4567 VIC 3996 SA 5088 SA 5000	02 4821 4386 02 4821 6296 07 5449 1877 07 5449 1899 03 5674 5520 03 5674 5577 08 8369 2447 08 8369 2448 0419 823 479 08 8269 6802 08 8231 6799	19 823 479	dhwalker@tpgi.com.au bilby@picknowi.com.au
A Q I S FOOD POLICY BRANCH FOOD POLICY BRANCH	STEVEN ANDREW	ROBERTS CUPIT	GPO BOX 858 GPO BOX 858	CANBERRA CANBERRA	ACT 2601 ACT 2601	02 6271 6438 02 6272 3678 02 6271 6537 02 6272 3678	<i></i>	steven.roberts@aqis.gov.au
ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION ALLANSFORD VETERINARY CLINIC EAST ISLAND DEER KENWICK VET HOSPITAL PREMIER DEER FARM LINDA RUMBLE SEMTECH ANIMAL BREEDING SERVICES T & J NOMINEES PTY LTD	RON GUY SUE MARK LINDA PAUL TERRY	DEPPLER DOCKRILL JOUBERT HUISMAN RUMBLE HAMILTON	132A ZIEGLER PARADE 3911 FRANKSTON FLINDERS ROAD 15 ROYAL STREET RMB 204 PO BOX 1299 7 BEAUMONT ROAD 207 MYERS ROAD	ALLANSFORD SHOREHAM KENWICK BOYUP BROOK DENILIQUIN BERWICK BITTERN	VIC 3277 VIC 3916 WA 6107 WA 6244 NSW 2710 VIC 3806 VIC 3918	03 5565 1390 03 5565 1495 03 5989 8574 03 5989 8574 08 9459 7999 08 9451 1058 08 9765 3023 08 9765 3024 03 5884 3872 03 5882 3572 03 9707 4077 03 9707 4077 03 9580 2833 03 9580 8192	) huli	deerguy@pen.hotkey.net.au huisman@premierdeer.com.au gundooee@hotkey.net.au
AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO-PRODUCTS PTY LTD CHAIRMAN MANAGING DIRECTOR ASSISTANT MANAGER DIRECTOR DIRECTOR DIRECTOR RUDI	TS PTY LTD MARK MARK DAVID GUY DES RUDI	HUISMAN WALKER DOCKRILL DELAINE KELLER	RMB 204 TARWIN ROAD 3911 FRANKSTON FLINDERS ROAD RIVER ROAD PO BOX 204 DORRIGO	BOYUP BROOK INVERLOCH SHOREHAM HAHNDORF NSW	WA 6244 08 976 VIC 3996 03 567 VIC 3916 03 598 SA 5245 08 838 2453 02 6657 2088	08 9765 1017 08 9765 3024 03 5674 5520 03 5674 5577 0419 343 307 03 5989 8574 03 5989 8574 0438 898 574 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654	ਰੂ	huisman@premierdeer.com.au dhwalker@tpgi.com.au deerguy@pen.hotkey.net.au hvensupp@dove.net.au aus-deer@midcoast.com.au

### Contacts - Page 2

COMPANY	NAME	SHRNAME	ADDRESS	NWOT	ST PC PHONE FAX MORIIF FMAII	
ADH DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY TREASURER	JIM MEG ANNE	MOIR WALKER HOGG	RMB 2359 TARWIN ROAD 22 LOWER ROAD	CONDAH INVERLOCH WATTLE GLEN	VIC 3303 03 5578 4229 03 5578 4204 0418 387 689 jmoil VIC 3996 03 5674 5520 03 5674 5577 dhwa VIC 3096 03 9438 2497 03 9438 2497	jmoir@iconnect.net.au dhwalker@tpgi.com.au
ADH VELVET POOLS STATE COORDINATORS NSW STATE COORDINATORS QLD STATE COORDINATORS SA STATE COORDINATORS TAS STATE COORDINATORS TAS STATE COORDINATORS WA	NICK MARK DES JOHN GUY JERRY	GUENTHER 68 GREENC REINBOTT PO BOX 85 DELAINE RIVER ROA CLARK PO BOX 93 DOCKRILL 3911 FRANI SHAWCROSS PO BOX 85	68 GREENDALE ROAD PO BOX 85 RIVER ROAD PO BOX 93 3911 FRANKSTON FLINDERS ROAD <b>5</b> PO BOX 85	GREENDALE CROWS NEST HAHNDORF DOVER D SHOREHAM BOYUP BROOK	NSW 2745 02 4773 8804 QLD 4355 07 4698 4966 07 4698 4966 SA 5245 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654 TAS 7117 03 6298 1140 03 6298 1140 VIC 3916 03 5989 8574 03 5989 8574 0438 898 574 deerguy@pen.hotkey.net.au WA 6244 08 9766 1008	hvensupp@dove.net.au deerguy@pen.hotkey.net.au er@telstra.easymail.com.au
PRINCIPAL GRADER	CLARK	MCGHIE	PO BOX 412	COOROI	QLD 4563 07 5488 6103 07 5488 6107 0429 688 191 clarkanddebbie	clarkanddebbie@hotmail.com.au
BONING ROOMS DOMESTIC COWARAMUP ABATTOIR HAHNDORF VENISON GAMEKEEPERS OF AUSTRALIA STRATH MEATS PTY LTD	JACK DES ALAN NEIL	SEMENI DELAINE RUNDELL WECKERT	C/o POST OFFICE RIVER ROAD PO BOX 5423 ASHBOURNE ROAD	COWARAMUP HAHNDORF CRANBOURNE PARK STRATHALBYN	WA 6284 SA 5245 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654 VIC 3977 03 5998 8218 03 5998 8387 0418 557 122 SA 5255 08 8536 2366	hvensupp@dove.net.au
EXPORT  AUSTRALIAN GAME MEATS  AUSTRALIAN GAME PROCESSORS GATEWAY MEATS (WAKERIE)  MERAMIST  THE EMU COMPANY  WESTMEATS PTY LTD	ROD IAN HANS BARRY ROBERT MARTIN	MACLURE MILBURNE THONIC DEMPSEY CAVEDON	644-646 OLD NORTHERN ROAD RMB 1024 14 ORLEANA STREET PO BOX 285 HUGHES LANE 7-9 CAHILL STREET	DURAL WYCHEPROOF FLAGSTAFF HILL CABOOLTURE EUROBIN DANDENONG	NSW 2158 02 9653 9010 VIC 3527 03 5493 7557 03 5493 7449 SA 5159 08 8371 4222 08 8371 4233 QLD 4510 07 5495 3711 07 5495 5727 VIC 3739 03 5756 2999 03 5756 2812 VIC 3175 03 9706 5222 03 9706 5308	meramist@one.net.au
BREED SOCIETIES AUST WARNHAM & WOBURN SOCIETY PRES	DAVID	ВЕСКМІТН	GIL GAL AMERY ROAD	THOONA	VIC 3726 03 5765 2367 thoona	thoona@hotmail.com.au
AUST WARNHAM & WOBURN SOCIETY SEC	DIANNE	LAWRENCE	36 MCKENZIE ROAD	NEERIM	VIC 3831 03 5628 4298 03 5628 4308	rainbow@sympac.com.au
RED DEER SOCIETY PRESIDENT RED DEER SOCIETY SECRETARY	ROD WILLIAM	MACLURE HUGHES	1 WATER ST A.B.R.I., U.N.E.	WAHROONGA ARMIDALE	NSW 2076 02 9489 3082 02 9489 7042 0412 308 203 NSW 2351 02 6773 3357 02 6772 1943	michelle@saltbush.une.edu.au
NTH AMERICAN ELK BREEDERS (NAMEBA)	TERRY	MAHONEY	207 MYERS ROAD	BITTERN	VIC 3918 03 9580 2833 03 9580 8192 gundook	gundooee@hotkey.net.au
ELK & WAIPITI SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND	TERRY	MAHONEY	207 MYERS ROAD	BITTERN	VIC 3918 03 9580 2833 03 9580 8192	gundooee@hotkey.net.au
CATERING BLACK RANGE DEER FARM	CHARLES <b>GATT</b>	3 GATT	RMB 1194 BLACK RANGE ROAD	ROMSEY	VIC 3434 03 5429 6157 03 5429 6157	

Contacts - Page 3

COMPANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST PC PHO	ONE FAX	X MOBILE EMA	AIL.
COMPUTER PROGRAMS "BLOODLINES" UNDAWARE PTY LTD	TONY	WHITE	4 THE CRESCENT	YEA	VIC 3717	03 5797 3344	03 5797 3288	
DEER MAGIC' SALTBUSH SOFTWARE			ABRI UNE	ARMIDALE	NSW 2351	02 6773 3310	02 6772 5376	
DEER QAMA & VENSTAT PROGRAMMING SOLUTIONS	RAYMONE	) KENNINGTON	RAYMOND KENNINGTON 48 FIRST STREET	GAWLER SOUTH	SA 5118	08 8522 4957	08 8522 4957	raymondk@chariot.net.au
CONSULTANTS INDUSTRY ACT - RURAL ACTION QLD RSK CONSULTING RURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS	BOB LYNELLE RUDY CHRIS	COOMBS TUME KELLER TUCKWELL	P.O. BOX 286 16 MARTINGALE COURT PO BOX 204 PO BOX 1105	JAMISON CENTRE CLEVELAND DORRIGO GAWLER	ACT 2614 QLD 4163 NSW 2453 SA 5118	02 6251 6127 07 3821 4200 02 6657 2088 08 8523 3500	02 6251 6719 07 3821 4211 02 6657 2088 08 8523 3301 0419 864 725	aus-deer@midcoast.com.au tuckwell@dove.net.au
<b>QA</b> QLD	TREVOR	RANKIN	22 AERIE COURT	SPRINGWOOD	QLD 4127	07 3208 6303	07 3208 6303 0402 291 819	
DATABASES CRANDON SERVICES NSW	ROB	McWATTERS PO BOX 337	PO BOX 337	LAURIETON	NSW 2443	02 6559 5777		coodge@midcoast.com.au
DEER BLOODTYPING BLENKHORN & ASSOCIATES (VETS) INVERMAY AGRIC CENTRE AGRISFARCH	LIONEL DR KEN	JOHNSTON	11 JOHN ST PRIVATE BAG 50034	PAKENHAM MOSGIEL	VIC 3810 NZ 001	03 5941 3822 0011 64 3 489 9138	03 5941 2050	
DEER EQUIPMENT TE PARI PRODUCTS - COLLARS TETRA AUSTRALIA - TETRANOLIII ISER	JEREMY	BLAMPIED	4 PURIRI STREET, NEW LYNN	AUCKLAND	NZ N	0011 64 9827 7274 00 02 9518 1199	0015 64 9827 5391 0800 109 339 02 9518 1166	
FARMPO - HYDRAULIC CRUSH SALT & MINERAL LICKS SALT & MINERAL LICKS SALT & MINERAL LICKS VELVET HALTER	JOHN JOHN ALAN ANDY IRENE	COCHRANE ANDREW JOHNSON COWAN PEDERSEN	RMB 699 "MEROO" MOORES ROAD 272 HAWKESBURY ROAD MAROONDAH HIGHWAY PO BOX 142	ST ARNAUD UPPER MONKERAI MOGGILL BUXTON STRATFORD	VIC 3478 I NSW 2415 QLD 4070 VIC 3711 VIC 3862	03 5495 3101 02 4987 4566 07 3202 6429 03 5774 7489 03 5145 6466	03 5495 3102 0429 953 101 02 4987 4585 0414 448 197 07 3202 7443 03 5774 7216 03 5145 6466	nce@hinterlink.net.au (diaa.org) cowan@virtual.net.au
DEER INDUSTRY COMPANY NATIONAL CHARMAN DIRECTOR/SECRETARY DIRECTOR DIRECTOR DEV. MANAGER RESEARCH OFFICER	TERRY RUDY ERIC JIM CHRIS SOLANGE	MAHONEY KELLER LOFT MOIR TUCKWELL SHAPIRO	207 MYERS ROAD PO BOX 204 PO BOX 359 RMB 2359 PO BOX 1105 191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY	BITTERN DORRIGO CARLTON CONDAH GAWLER LISMORE	VIC 3918 NSW 2453 VIC 3053 VIC 3303 SA 5118 VIC 3325	03 9580 2833 02 6657 2088 03 9347 7146 03 5578 4229 03 8523 3500 03 5596 2323	03 9580 8192 02 6657 2088 03 9347 6906 03 5578 4204 03 8523 3301 0419 864 725 03 5596 2313	gundooee@hotkey.net.au aus-deer@midcoast.com.au monarchvenison@netspace.net.au jmoir@iconnect.net.au cdtuckwell@bigpond.com.au deerco@gatewaybbs.com.au
<b>QA BOARD</b> CHAIRMAN	TONY	ENGLISH	DEPT VET CLINICAL SCI. PMB 3 CAMDEN	CAMDEN	NSW 2570	02 9351 1675	02 9351 1618 0412 377 820	aeng5919@mail.usyd.edu.au

Contacts - Page 4

COMPANY	NAME	SHRNAME	ADDRESS	NWOT	ST PC P	HONE E	V XV:	MORII F FMAII	
QA BOARD MEMBER MEMBER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER CONSULTANT RESEARCH OFFICER	TERRY JIM CHRIS TREVOR SOLANGE	-	207 MYERS ROAD RMB 2359 PO BOX 1105 22 AERIE COURT 191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY	BITTERN CONDAH GAWLER SPRINGWOOD LISMORE	VIC 3918 VIC 3303 SA 5118 QLD 4127 VIC 3325	03 9580 2833 03 5578 4229 03 8523 3500 07 3208 6303 03 5596 2323	03 9580 8192 03 5578 4204 03 8523 3301 07 3208 6303 03 5596 2313	0419 864 725 0402 291 819	gundooee@holkey.net.au jmoir@iconnect.net.au cdtuckwell@bigpond.com.au deerco@gatewaybbs.com.au
QA FACILITATORS QLD QLD VIC VIC WA	KEN ALAN JIM KEN MARK	POINTON JOHNSON MOIR ROBERTSON HUISMAN	PO BOX 79 272 HAWKESBURY ROAD RMB 2359 1928 DAY ROAD RMB 204	KILCOY MOGGILL CONDAH YAMBUNA BOYUP BROOK	QLD 4515 QLD 4070 VIC 3303 VIC 3621 WA 6244	07 5497 3156 07 3202 6429 03 5578 4229 03 5859 6226 08 9765 3023	07 5497 3156 07 3202 7443 03 5578 4204 03 5859 6226 08 9765 3024		jmoir@iconnect.com.au huisman@premierdeer.com.au
DEER ORGANIZATIONS NATIONAL DIAA PRESIDENT DIAA SECRETARY DIAA SECRETARIAT	JIM RUDY SOLANGE	MOIR KELLER SHAPIRO	RMB 2359 PO BOX 204 191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY	CONDAH DORRIGO LISMORE	VIC 3303 NSW 2453 VIC 3324	03 5578 4229 02 6657 2088 03 5596 2323	03 5578 4204 02 6657 2088 03 5596 2313		jmoir@iconnect.net.au aus-deer@midcoast.com.au shapiro@gatewaybbs.com.au
STATE MURRAY DEER FARMERS PRESIDENT MURRAY DEER FARMERS SECRETARY	BOB GRAHAM	BENNETT LILLEY	STAR LANE RMB 1169 RMB 1975	WOORAGEE GRETA SOUTH	VIC 3747 VIC 3675	03 5728 7256 03 5766 6294	03 5728 7242 03 5766 6294		
TAS DEER FARMERS COUNCIL JOHN PRESIDENT TAS DEER FARMERS COUNCIL EXEC GERRY OFF	JOHN EC GERRY	CLARK PHILLIPS	PO BOX 93 PO BOX 193	DOVER LAUNCESTON	TAS 7117 TAS 7250	03 6298 1140 03 6298 1140 03 6331 6377 03 6331 4344	03 6298 1140 03 6331 4344		
DEER PRODUCTS SKINS, PIZZLES, TAILS, HIDES, HEADS AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN BLLBY INTERNATIONAL ADP PHARMACEUTICALS TANNING HIDES TROPHY HEADS TONG REN TANG	DAVID DAVID DON ALAN DENNIS J R R JOHN	WALKER MACDONALD CHAPMAN WHITE WEEL BARR CHEN	TARWIN ROAD PO BOX 1211 592 NORTHEAST ROAD 144 GORMAN ROAD RMB 2005 PINCES HIGHWAY 16-20 SULTRAM PLACE	INVERLOCH NOOSA HOLDEN HILL GOULBURN LAKES ENTRANCE CAMBRIDGE ADELAIDE	VIC 3996 QLD 4567 SA 5088 NSW 2580 VIC 3909 TAS 7170 SA 5000	03 5674 5520 07 5449 1877 08 8369 2447 02 4821 4386 03 5155 1231 03 6248 5466 08 8269 6802	03 5674 5577 07 5449 1899 08 8369 2448 02 4821 6296 03 6273 0589 08 8231 6799	0419 823 479	dhwalker@tpgi.com.au donaldmac@ozemail.com.au bilby@picknowi.com.au adp@goulbum.net.au chenlz@senet.com.au
DIAA DIAA ADMINISTRATION HEAD OFFICE BOOKSHOP WEBSITE	SOLANGE JOAN ANDY	SOLANGE <b>SHAPIRO</b> JOAN <b>MAHONEY</b> ANDY <b>COWAN</b>	191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY 207 MYERS ROAD MAROONDAH HIGHWAY	LISMORE BITTERN BUXTON	VIC 3324 VIC 3918 VIC 3711	03 5596 2323 03 5983 8727 03 5774 7489	03 5596 2313 03 5983 6549 03 5774 7216		shapiro@gatewaybbs.com.au gundooee@hotkey.net.au (diaa.org) cowan@virtual.net.au

Contacts - Page 5

COMPANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST PC PHONE FAX	MOBILE EN	AIL
DIAA AFFILIATED ORG RED DEER SOCIETY PRESIDENT RED DEER SOCIETY SECRETARY	ROD WILLIAM	MACLURE HUGHES	1 WATER ST A.B.R.I., U.N.E.	WAHROONGA ARMIDALE	NSW 2076 02 9489 3082 02 9489 7042 NSW 2351 02 6773 3357 02 6772 1943	0412 308 203	firefly@glhardnet.com.au michelle@saltbush.une.edu.au
<b>DIAA ASSOCIATED ORG</b> TAS DEER FARMERS COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOHN TAS DEER FARMERS COUNCIL SECRETARY GERRY	JOHN GERRY	CLARK PHILLIPS	PO BOX 93 PO BOX 193	DOVER LAUNCESTON	TAS 7117 03 6298 1140 03 6298 1140 TAS 7250 03 6331 6377 03 6331 4344	0418 127 455	tfga.box9@tassie.net.au tfga.box9@tassie.net.au
DIAA BRANCH ES DIAA NSW PRESIDENT DIAA NSW SECRETARY DIAA NSW TREASURER	PETER BRIAN BRIAN	KENNEDY ELLIOTT WALKER	4 ROSEBANK CRESCENT 12 / 51 MUSGRAVE STREET 1721 BELLANGRY ROAD	HURSTVILLE YARRALUMLA BELLANGRY	NSW 2220 02 9579 5377 02 9579 5377 NSW 2600 02 6281 2453 02 6281 2453 NSW 2446 02 6587 5127 02 6587 5200		0414 867 407 Peter_Kennedy@deloitte.com.au 0429 910 013 brub@tpg.com.au 0412 716 168 araluen@tsn.cc
DIAA QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT	BILL	HOOGWAERTS	HOOGWAERTS 16A YACHT STREET	CLONTARF	QLD 4019 07 3284 0804 07 3885 2570		
DIAA QUEENSLAND SICE-FRESIDEN I DIAA QUEENSLAND SECRETARY DIAA QUEENSLAND TREASURER	MARK WERNER	GILLESPIE ABEL	HAMA TERRACE M/S 1497 M/S 26	WELLCAMP CROWS NEST	QLD 4350 07 4630 4365 07 4630 4025 W07 4687 2500 QLD 4515 07 46981247 07 46981247	W07 4687 2500	gill@tmba.design.net.au abel123@fan.net.au
DIAA SA PRESIDENT DIAA SA VICE PRESIDENT DIAA SA SECRETARY DIAA SA TREASURER	ROBERT DES CRAIG JEFF	BLANDEN DELAINE RICHARDSON VARCOE	PO BOX 213 RIVER ROAD PO BOX 354 PMB 31	JAMESTOWN HAHNDORF WILLUNGA MILLICENT	SA 5491 08 8665 4031 08 8664 1161 SA 5245 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654 SA 5172 08 8556 1350 08 8556 1294 SA 5280 08 8734 3039 08 8734 3039		caltowie@ruralink.com.au hvensupp@dove.net.au cgrich@dove.net.au
DIAA VICTORIA PRESIDENT DIAA VICTORIA VICE PRESIDNET DIAA VICTORIA SECRETARY DIAA VICTORIA TREASURER	JIM STEVE RICHARD VIRGINIA	MOIR LAMPLOUGH COFFIN ROBINSON	RMB 2359 PO BOX 797 RSD E422 WESCOTTS ROAD WALLACE RMB 2086 KINGS ROAD VIOLET TO	CONDAH PORTLAND ) WALLACE VIOLET TOWN	VIC 3303 03 5578 4229 03 5578 4204 VIC 3305 03 5523 5771 03 5523 5771 VIC 3352 03 5334 0313 03 5334 0313 VIC 3669 03 5798 1774 03 5798 1774	0408 177 782	jmoir@iconnect.com.au oakpark@datafast.net.au akoonah@qonline.com.au
DIAA WA PRESIDENT DIAA WA VICE PRESIDNET DIAA WA SECRETARY DIAA WA TREASURER	BRENDON MARK ROWENA MARY	BRENDON MORRISON MARK HUISMAN ROWENA SMITH MARY NEWING	PO BOX 496 RMB 204 PO BOX 84 1 WOODBINE ROAD	MARGARET RIVER BOYUP BROOK VASSE PICKERING BROOK	WA 6285 08 9755 9094 08 9755 5512 WA 6244 08 9765 3023 08 9765 3024 WA 6280 08 9751 1681 WA 6076 08 9293 8202	0417 651 016 0401 663 546	huisman@premierdeer.com.au rowena@compwest.net.au
DIAA COUNCIL PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT HON SECRETARY HON TREASURER QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT SA PRESIDENT ELECTED MEMBER ELECTED MEMBER ELECTED MEMBER	JIM MARK RUDY PETER BILL ROBERT BOB DOUG	MOIR HUISMAN KELLER KENNEDY HOOGWAERTS BLANDEN BENNETT CLARK	MOIR         RMB 2359           HUISMAN         RMB 204           KELLER         PO BOX 204           KENNEDY         4 ROSEBANK CRESCENT           HOOGWAERTS 16A YACHT STREET         BLANDEN           BLANDEN         PO BOX 213           BENNETT         RMB 1169 Star Lane           CLARK         PO BOX 1010           LAMPLOUGH         PO BOX 797	CONDAH BOYUP BROOK DORRIGO HURSTVILLE CLONTRF JAMESTOWN WOORAGEE GAWLER	VIC 3303 03 5578 4229 03 5578 4204 WA 6244 08 9765 3023 08 9765 3024 NSW 2453 02 6657 2088 02 6657 2088 0LD 4019 07 3284 0804 07 3885 2570 SA 5491 08 8865 4031 08 8864 1161 VIC 3747 03 5728 7256 03 5728 7242 SA 5118 08 8524 9110 08 8351 8640 VIC 3305 03 5523 5771 03 5523 5771	0418 387 689 0417 485 640 0419 810 335 0408 177 782	jmoir@iconnect.net.au huisman@premierdeer.com.au aus-deer@midcoast.com.au Peter_Kennedy@deloitte.com.au caltowie@ruralink.com.au ruralbiz@wang.albury.net.au doug@mrbankrupt.com.au oakpark@datafast.net.au

Contacts - Page 6

OBILE EMAIL shapiro@gatewaybbs.com.au cowan@mynet.net.au o418 542 354 monarchvenison@netspace.net.au gundooee@hotkey.net.au dhwalker@tpgi.com.au	deerguy@pen.hotkey.net.au huisman@premierdeer.com.au	dhwalker@tpgi.com.au	dhwalker@tpgi.com.au
1081LE EI 0428 990 811 0418 542 354 1 015 343 307	0438 898 574	0419 343 307	0419 343 307
03 5596 2313 03 5774 7216 03 9347 6906 03 9580 8192 03 5674 5577	1 705 322 1221 03 5968 1346 03 5989 8574 03 9707 4077 08 9451 1058 08 9765 3024	02 9831 1106 07 4653 1179 03 5429 6157 03 5674 5577 02 6925 4825 02 9831 1106 02 9831 1106 02 9411 6364 03 5634 2652	03 5429 6157 03 5598 3471 03 5674 5577 08 9765 1356
ONE FAX 03 5596 2323 03 5774 7489 03 9347 7146 03 9580 2833 03 5674 5520	LOL 1 PO 0011 1 705 322 1212 0011 1 705 322 1221 3783 03 5968 1346 03 5968 1346 3916 03 5989 8574 03 5989 8574 03 9707 4077 03 9707 4077 01 975 1056 107 08 9459 7999 08 9451 1056 6244 08 9765 3023 08 9765 3024	02 6550 6306 07 4653 1179 03 5146 4335 03 5429 6157 03 5790 3221 03 5674 5520 02 9838 1888 02 9838 1888 02 6550 6306 02 9411 5075 018 806 328 03 654 2541	03 5429 6157 03 5598 3151 03 5674 5520 08 9765 1402 1800 627 722
PC PH 3324 3711 3053 3918 3996	LOL 1 PO 00 3783 3916 3806 6107	2429 2429 4385 3851 3434 3666 3996 2765 2667	3434 3268 3996 6244 6335
VIC VIC VIC VIC	CAN VIC VIC WA	NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW NSW	W WCC C
TOWN LISMORE BUXTON CARLTON BITTERN INVERLOCH	ONTARIO GEMBROOK SHOREHAM BERWICK KENWICK	BURRELL CREEK MARLEE EAST via WINGHAM TEXAS SEASPRAY ROMSEY EUROA INVERLOCH WAGGA BURRELL CREEK WEST CHATSWOOD HOPE FOREST	ROMSEY TIMBOON INVERLOCH BOYUP BROOK GNOWANGERUP
ADDRESS 191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY POST OFFICE PO BOX 359 207 MYERS ROAD TARWIN ROAD	RR .3 ELMVALE PO BOX 164 3911 FRANKSTON FLINDERS ROAD 7 BEAUMONT ROAD 15 ROYAL STREET RMB 204	214 GLOUCESTER ROAD LOT 1, ROBINSON MIDDLEBROOK RD. WLGA VALE RMB 6435 RMB 6435 RMB 1194 BLACK RANGE ROAD TARWIN ROAD 112 WINDSOR ROAD 2 GLENVALE PLACE 214 GLOUCESTER ROAD PO BOX 5336	RMB 1194 BLACK RANGE ROAD PORT CAMPBELL ROAD TARWIN ROAD PO BOX 173
NAME SURNAME HENRY SHAPIRO ANDY COWAN ERIC LOFT TERRY MAHONEY DAVID WALKER	MIKE BRIGGANS PAUL BERTUCH GUY DOCKRILL PAUL HAMILTON SUE JOUBERT MARK HUISMAN	EWEN MCEWEN 18 M SIRRETT JOAN WHITE TRAVIS FLENS CHARL GATT ES JP & JR MCCORMICK DAVID WALKER AUSFE NCE RUSELL DURNAN EWEN MCEWEN COLIN WARD DAVID ROBERTS LIONEL CAMPION	
COMPANY ELECTED MEMBER RED DEER SOCIETY REP AVP&MA DEER INDUSTRY COMPANY ADH&CO-PRODUCTS	ET & AI SPECIALISTS COLDSTREAM DEER GROUP MARADENE DEER STUD PAUL EAST ISLAND DEER GUY SEMTECH ANIMAL BREEDING SERVICES KENWICK VET HOSPITAL PREMIER DEER FARM MARP	FENCING CONTRACTORS NSW QLD VIC VIC VIC VIC VIC NSW MATERIALS NSW NSW NSW NSW SA VIC	VIC VIC WA

peterc@rirdc.gov.au	andreab@rirdc.gov.au	denholml@bigpond.com
02 6272 5334	02 6272 5334	02 6391 3899 0418 641 957
02 6272 5920	02 6272 3088	02 6391 3863
2604	2605	2800
ACT	ACT	NSW
KINGSTON	KINGSTON	ORANGE
PO BOX 4776	PO BOX 4777	PO BOX 1564
R PETER CORE	ANDRE BRYANT A	LAURIE DENHOLM
GOVERNMENT COMMONWEALTH RIRDC DEER PROG MANAGEI	SECRETARY ANDRE BRYANT A	RIRDC NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Contacts - Page 7

COMPANY	NAME	SHRNAME	ADDRESS	NWOT	ST PC PHONE FA	MORIIF	FMAII
GOVERNMENT – STATE NSW AGRICUL TURE QLD DEPT PRIMARY INDUSTRY TAS DEPT PRIMARY INDUSTRY WA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICUL TURE	BRUCE STEPHEN RICK STEPHEN	MACKAY SINCLAIR CAMPBELL GOURLEY	FOREST ROAD PO BOX 96 PO BOX 303 BARREN-HAY COURT	ORANGE IPSWICH DEVONPORT SOUTH PERTH	0000	63913 899 0409 266 179 6421 7666 9368 1205	
INSURANCE WESFARMERS NSW WESFARMERS QLD WESFARMERS SA WESFARMERS TAS WESFARMERS TAS WESFARMERS VIC	ROB JOHN TIM CRAIG NEIL BRIAN	HARLEY 237 MARSDEN 9 St CARR 100 HAZELDENE 47 E TRESIDDER 715 NICHOLSON 184	HARLEY 237 LORDS PLACE MARSDEN 9 SHERWOOD ROAD CARR 100 GREENHILL ROAD HAZELDENE 47 ELIZABETH STREET TRESIDDER 715 SWANSTON STREET NICHOLSON 184 RAILWAY PARADE	ORANGE TOOWONG UNLEY LAUNCESTON CARLTON BASSENDEAN	NSW 2800 02 6362 6768 02 QLD 4066 07 3871 0277 07 SA 5061 08 8272 5100 08 TAS 7250 03 6331 5022 03 VIC 3053 03 9347 4033 03 WA 6054 08 9273 5333 08	02 6362 5938 07 3871 0776 08 8272 3145 03 6331 1916 03 9347 7670 08 9378 2172	neil.tresidder@wfi.wesfarmers.com.au
INTERNET & WEB SITE SERVICES JMH WEB SERVICES LEONE COMMUNICATIONS WEB GENETICS	JOHN SAM PETER	HAYES LEONE LIST	156 MOBBS LANE FIREFL 19 ULVERSTONE STREET LYONS PHILLIP ISLAND ROAD NEWHA	FIREFLY KRAMBACH NSW 2429 LYONS ACT 2606 NEWHAVEN VIC 3925	02 6559 1325 02 6281 0369 03 5956 7478	02 6559 1374 02 6559 1880 02 6282 9190 03 5956 7478 0409 899 836	adf@bungaroo.com.au leone@ozemail.com.au pete@webgenetics.com.au
JOHNES DISEASE NATIONAL JOHNES DISEASE COMMITTEE LAURIE	E LAURIE	DENHOLM	PO BOX 1564	ORANGE	NSW 2800 02 6391 3863 02 6391 3899 0418 641 957	6391 3899 0418 641 957	denholml@bigpond.com
MEAT INDUSTRY AUTHORITY NATIONAL	ALISON	ROWLANDS	ROWLANDS PO BOX 5430	CHATSWOOD WEST NSW 2057	NSW 2057		
MEAT TESTING NATIONAL RESIDUE SURVEY (NRS)	JONATHAN WEBBER	WEBBER	GPO BOX 858	CANBERRA	ACT 2601 02 6272 3762 0	06 272 4023	jonathan.webber@affa.gov.au
MEDIA NEWSPAPER CANBERRA TIMES ALTERNATIVE FARMER - THE LAND AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW AUSTRALIAN MEAT INDUSTRY BULLETIN COUNTRY LEADER NORNEWS RURAL NSW AGRICULTURE TODAY RURAL NEWS - SOUTHERN RURAL SYDNEY MORNING HERALD THE AUSTRALIAN THE LAND BUSH TELEGRAPH	MARK LINDA CATHY GATHY GARY DAMIAN MARK ANDREW NORM ANTHONY JOHN CHARLES	METHERELL WILLIAMS BOLT ALLEN RUDDICK BATHERSBY DENNIS NICHOLS WRINGLEY HOY STAPLETON STAPLETON STAINNER			ACT 02 6280 2122 02 NSW 02 4570 4614 02 NSW 02 9282 2822 02 NSW 02 9906 7767 02 NSW 02 6768 1200 02 4570 444 NSW 02 9282 2822 02 NSW 02 9288 3000 02 NSW 02 928 928 928 928 928 928 928 928 928 92	02 6280 2282 02 4570 4649 02 9916 5197 02 9906 7831 02 6722 4430 02 6722 4430 02 9819 7650 02 9282 3027 02 9282 2027 02 9288 2250 02 4570 4671 07 4661 9191	

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COMPANI	INWIL	SURINAIME	ADDRESS	IOWIN	10	LITONE		Ξ
QUEENSLAND COUNTRY LIFE	MARK	PHELPS			QLD	07 4638 3222		18
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AUSTRALIAN EXOTIC NEWS	DEBBIE	WEST			ξ	08 8293 4588	4588	
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COMPANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST	PC P	PHONE FA	MOBILE	EMAIL
NEW ZEALAND CONTACTS GAME INDUSTRIES BOARD (NZ) CHAIRMAN	CLIVE	JEREMY	5-7 WILLESTON ST	WELLINGTON	ZN		0011 64 4473		
NEW ZEALAND DEER FARMERS ASSOCIATION	DAVID	STEVENS							
THE NEW ZEALAND DEER FARMER MAGAZINE	DIONNE	BARTON	PO BOX 11092	WELLINGTON	NZ		0011 64 4 473 <sub>0</sub>	4 473 0011 64 4 473 4530 9243	deerfarmer@compuserve.com.nz
PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA LIAISON LEONE COMMUNICATIONS	SAM	LEONE	19 ULVERSTONE STREET	RYONS	ACT	2606	02 6281 0369	02 6282 9190	leone@ozemail.com.au
RESEARCHERS									
AUSTRALIA NSW AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY	DR LAURIE DR TONY	DENHOLM ENGLISH	PO BOX 1564 ORANGE DEPT VET CLINICAL SCI. PMB 3 CAMDEN	ORANGE CAMDEN	NSW NSW	2800 2570	02 6391 3863 02 9351 1675	02 6391 3899 0418 641 957 02 9351 1618 0412 377 820	denholml@bigpond.com aeng5919@mail.usyd.edu.au
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY	DR JASON	FLESCH	BOURKE STREET	RICHMOND	NSN	2753		0414 194 606	deer.research@uws.edu.au
ORANGE VETERINARY HOSPITAL	DR ANDREW	HANSEN	57 MOLONG ROAD	ORANGE	NSN	2800	02 6362 1510	02 6362 3970	ovh@netwit.net.au
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY	DR ROBERT	MULLEY	BOURKE STREET	RICHMOND	NSN	2753	02 4570 1438	02 4570 1383	r.mulley@uws.edu.au
UNIVERSITY NEW ENGLAND DR JOHN	DR JOHN	THOMPSON	DEPT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE	ARMIDALE	NSW	2351	02 6773 3333		
ONIVERSITY OF	DR GORDON	DRYDEN	GATTON COLLEGE	GATTON	QLD	4345	07 5460 1320	07 5460 1324	
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA	DR YINGJUN DR SCOTT	RU CHAMPION	ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS GPO BOX 252-254	ROSEWORTHY HOBART	SA TAS	5371 7001	08 8303 7787 03 6226 2618	08 8303 796877	ru.yingjun@saueov.sa.gov.au
VIC INSTITUTE OF ANIMAL SCIENCE	DR PAUL	PRESIDENTE	475 MICKLEHAM ROAD	ATTWOOD	VIC	3049	03 9217 4393	03 9217 4328	Paul.Presidente@NRE.vic.gov.au
KENWICK VETERINARY HOSPITAL	DR SUE	JOUBERT	15 ROYAL STREET	KENWICK	WA	6107	08 9451 6718	08 9459 1058	
NEW ZEALAND INVERMAY AGRIC CENTRE AGRISFARCH	DR GEOFF	ASHER	PRIVATE BAG 50034	MOSGIEL	Z		0011 64 3 489	0015 64 3 489 3739	asherg@agresearch.cri.nz
INVERMAY AGRIC CENTRE AGRISEARCH	DR KEN	DREW	PRIVATE BAG 50034	MOSGIEL	Z		0011 64 3 489 9138		
INVERMAY AGRIC CENTRE AGRISFARCH	DR JAMES	SUTTIE	PRIVATE BAG 50034	MOSGIEL	Z		0011 64 3 489 <sub>00</sub>	0011 64 3 489 0015 64 3 489 9239 9228	suttiej@agresearch.cri.nz
MASSEY UNIV DEPT VET & CLINICAL SCIENCE	DR PETER	WILSON	PO BOX 11222	PALMERSTON NORTH	Z		0011 64 6 356 0 9099 0	0015 64 6 357 2403	
RIRDC / DIAA ADVISORY C'TEE									
CHAIRMAN RIRDC REPRESENTATIVE	NOLA PETER	ANDERSON CORE	26 ARCADIA WAY PO BOX 4776	ELTHAM NORTH KINGSTON	VIC	3095 2604	03 9431 2360 02 6272 5920	03 9642 8144 02 6272 5334	
SECRETARY MEMBER MEMRER	ANDREA DR LAURIE DR PALII	BRYANT DENHOLM PRESIDENTE	PO BOX 4777 PO BOX 1564 475 MICKI FHAM ROAD	KINGSTON ORANGE ATTWOOD	ACT NSW	2605 2800 3049	02 6272 3088 02 6391 3863 03 9217 4393	02 6272 5334 02 6391 3899 0418 641 957 03 9217 4328	andreab@rirdc.gov.au denholml@bigpond.com Paul Presidente@nre vic gov au
MEMBER	GUY	DOCKRILL	3911 FRANKSTON FLINDERS ROAD	SHOREHAM	N N	3916	03 5989 8574	03 5989 8574 0438 898 574	

<b>ACCREDITED</b> ER TRANS AUSTRALIA	GARRY	SMITH	PO BOX 167	STANHOPE	NC VIC	3623	03 5857 2463	03 5857 2734 018 570 804
	CHARLES	GATT	RMB 1194 BI ACK RANGE ROAD BOMSEY	ADROMSEY	ZIX	VIC 3434	03 5429 6157	03 5429 6157
	ERN	HARRISON	HARRISON PO BOX 92	PORTLAND	2 2	3305	03 5526 5375	019 679 275

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COMPANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN	ST PC PHONE FAX MOBILE EMAIL
TRANSPORTERS MEROO NSW WILARRA TULONG NSW SALISBURY NSW NSW NSW NSW MELROSE PARK NSW QLD QLD SA SA TAS TAS KRAAL TAS VIC		ANDREW CAMPBELL DOWSETT EZZEY JESKE MCEWEN SCIFLET PIGGOTT COLLINS STEVENS CROWDEN GRIGGS KAPPELLER	MOORES ROAD WOLLONG WAY SALISBURY PO BOX 178 HARTLEYS ROAD 214 GLOUCESTER ROAD MELROSE DRIVE PO BOX 78 PO BOX 421 RSD 1941 KRAAL' RSD 677 PO BOX 518	UPPER MONKERAI QUORROBOLONG MUSWELLBROOK CORAMBA BURRELL CREEK MUDGEE CROWS NEST BORDERTOWN YALLUNDA FLAT KYABRAM	4 7136 02 4994 7070 8 6231 02 9979 6179 0408 408 184 8 3612 02 6368 3612 4 4292 0 6306 02 9831 1106 8 1127 8 1287 07 5533 2887 8 1304 07 3698 1304 2 2966 08 8752 2956 8 5032 2 3523 2 4707 0409 126 788 7 8268
VELVET ACCREDITATION SCHEME NATIONAL KENWICK VETERINARY HOSP (CHAIRMAN)	E DR SUE	JOUBERT	15 ROYAL STREET	KENWICK	WA 6107 08 9459 7999 08 9459 1058 joubert@directnet.com.au
STATE ORANGE VETERINARY HOSPITAL CHAMBERLAIN VETERINARY CONSULTANCY LINCOL VETERINARY CENTRE MAFFRA VETERINARY HOSPITAL KENWICK VETERINARY HOSPITAL DEPT VET CLINICAL SCIENCES, UNIV SYDNEY ADMINISTRATION	DR ANDREW DR PHILLIP DR JOHN DR PENNY DR JACK - DR SUE DR TONY SOLANGE	HANSEN CHAMBERLAIN GRAINGER KING WINTERBOTTOM JOUBERT ENGLISH SHAPIRO	57 MOLONG ROAD PO BOX 206 LINCOLN VETERINARY CENTRE 19 WILSONS ROAD MAFFRA VETERINARY HOSPITAL 15 ROYAL STREET DEPT VET CLINICAL SCIENCES, PMB 3 191 HAMILTON HIGHWAY	ORANGE SAMFORD POT LINCOLN KETTERING MAFFRA KENWICK CAMDEN LISMORE	NSW 2800 02 6361 8388 02 6362 3970 hansena@netwit.net.au QLD 4520 07 3289 1887 07 3289 1671 p.chamberlain@mailbox.uq.edu.au SA 5606 08 8682 3100 08 8682 6842 pennyk42@hotmail.com TAS 7155 03 6267 4741 pennyk42@hotmail.com yIC 3860 03 5147 1177 03 5147 1650 pennyk42@hotmail.com jackwin@magnet.com.au WA 6107 08 9459 7999 08 9549 1058 pennyk42@hotmail.usyd.edu.au NSW 2570 02 9351 1675 02 9351 1618 0412 377 820 aeng5919@mail.usyd.edu.au VIC 3324 03 5596 2323 03 5596 2313 shapiro@gatewaybbs.com.au
ADP PHARMACEUTICALS AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN AUSTRALIAN DEER HORN & CO PRODUCTS BLACK RANGE DEER FARM HAHNDORF VELVET WINE TONG REN TANG	DENNIS DON DAVID CHARLES DES JOHN	WHITE MACDONALD WALKER GATT DELAINE CHEN	144 GORMAN ROAD PO BOX 1211 TARWIN ROAD RMB 1194 BLACK RANGE RD RIVER ROAD 16-20 SULTRAM PLACE	GOULBURN NOOSA INVERLOCH ROMSEY HAHNDORF ADELAIDE	NSW 2580 02 4821 4386 02 4821 6296 QLD 4567 07 5449 1877 07 5449 1899 VIC 3996 03 5674 5520 03 5674 5577  VIC 3434 03 5429 6157 03 5429 6157  SA 5245 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654  SA 5000 08 8269 6802 08 8231 6799

## Contacts - Page 11

	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	NMOT	ST PC PHONE	FAX MOBILE	EMAIL	
VENISON PROCESSORS  DOMESTIC  ALPINE VENISON DEER TRAENISON DEER TRAENISON ONKAPARINGA VENISON ON TOWN GAME MEATS LENAH GAME MEATS LENAH GAME MEATS GAMEKEEPERS OF AUSTRALIA YARRA VALLEY VENISON SENTOSA MARGARET RIVER VENISON	EWEN JOAN DES KEVIN TONY JOHN ERIC ALAN KEN JOHN GRAHAM	MCEWEN WHITE DELAINE BARNES LITTLE KELLY LOFT RUNDELL LANG JANSEN	214 GLOUCESTER ROAD WLGA VALE RIVER ROAD PO BOX 140 FAIRFIELD PO BOX 294 PO BOX 359 PO BOX 206 DOONGALLA ROAD	BURRELL CREEK TEXAS HAHNDORF BALHANNAH EAGLEHAWK NECK MOWBRAY CARLTON CRANBOURNE PARK HEALESVILLE THE BASIN MARGARET RIVER	NSW 2429 02 6550 6306 QLD 4385 07 4653 1179 SA 5245 08 8388 7347 SA 5242 08 8388 4205 TAS 7179 03 6250 3293 TAS 7248 03 6326 7696 VIC 3053 03 9347 7146 VIC 3977 03 5998 8218 VIC 3154 03 9762 512 WA 6285 08 9455 5512	22 6550 6306 02 9831 1106 08 8388 7347 08 8388 7654 08 8388 4205 08 8388 7654 03 6250 3293 03 6250 3293 03 6250 3293 03 6250 3293 03 6326 7696 03 632 62790 0417 585 163 lenah@tassie.net.au 03 9347 7146 03 9347 6906 0418 557 122 03 5998 8218 03 5998 8387 0418 557 122 03 5692 5173 03 562 2951 03 9762 7925 03 9762 8997	monarchve	hvensupp@dove.net.au lenah@tassie.net.au nison@netspace.net.au
EXPORT  EXPORT  AUSTRALIAN FARM GATE PTY LTD  AUSTRALIAN GAME MEATS  BILBY GROUP  DEERMAN PTY LTD  MUDGEE CO-OPERATIVE MEAT SUPPLY  GLENEDEN DEER FARM  MERAMIST	JOHN ROD RUSELL WARWICK PETER ALAN BARRY	JOHN ANDREW ROD MACLURE RUSELL DURNAN WARWICK DENSHIRE PETER MILLS ALAN JOHNSON BARRY DEMPSEY	"MEROO" MOORES ROAD 64 COONANBARRA ROAD 2 GLENVALE PLACE 62 METCALF STREET PO BOX 63 272 HAWKESBURY ROAD PO ROX 285	UPPER MONKERAL NAHROONGA NAGGA WAGGA WALSEND MUDGEE MOGGILL CAROOI THRE	NSW 2415 02 4987 4566 02 4987 4585 NSW 2076 02 9489 3082 02 9489 7042 NSW 2650 02 6926 1744 02 6925 4825 NSW 2857 02 4951 8101 02 4951 4834 NSW 2850 02 6372 3555 02 3672 4169 QLD 4070 07 3202 6429 07 5495 5727 OLD 4510 07 5495 3711 07 5495 5727	NSW 2415 02 4987 4566 02 4987 4585 0414 448 197 NSW 2076 02 9489 3082 02 9489 7042 0412 308 203 NSW 2650 02 6926 1744 02 6925 4825 0408 694 154 NSW 2687 02 4951 8101 02 4951 4834 0408 440 789 NSW 2850 02 6372 3555 02 3672 4169 01 5470 07 3202 6429 07 3202 7443	3 197 3 203 1 154 7 789	nce@hinterlink.net.au
BILBY GROUP GATEWAY MEATS WINDY HILLS VENISON	ALAN HANS IVAN	CHAPMAN THONIC COULTER	592 NORTH EAST ROAD 14 ORLEANA STREET PO BOX 484	╛	5088 5159 5072	47 08 8369 2448 0419 823 479 22 08 8371 4233 50 08 8565 3250	3 479	bilby@connect.net.au
	ERIC	LOFT	PO BOX 359	CARLTON	VIC 3053 03 9347 7146	03 9347 7146 03 9347 6906 0418 542 354 monarchvenison@netspace.net.au	2 354 monarchver	ison@netspace.net.au
OP GAMEKEEPERS OF AUSTRALIA SENTOSA MEATS	ALAN JOHN PAUL	RUNDELL JANSEN MILLER	FO BOX 539 PO BOX 5423 DOONGALLA ROAD 49 ALNESS STREET	JRNE PARK N OSS	VIC 3977 VIC 3154 VIC 3154 WA 6153	3053 0.3 9347 7 140 0.3 9347 0906 04 16 342 334 3977 0.3 5998 8218 0.3 5998 8387 0418 557 122 3154 0.3 9762 8987 6165 0.8 9316 3069	2 334 monarchyer 7 122	iison@netspace.net.au
VENISON SALES DOMESTIC MANDAGERY CREEK ALPINE VENISON ONKAPARINGA VALLEY VENISON HAHNDORF VENISON WARRAMBUCCA VENISON & GOURMET MEAT AUSTRALIAN VENISON PRODUCERS CO OP GAMEKEEPERS OF AUSTRALIA KINNERSLEY VENISON YARRA VALLEY VENISON	JOHN EWEN KEVIN DES JOHN ERIC ALAN RAY KEN	ANDREWS POBOX ( MCEWEN 214 GLOD BARNES PO BOX BELAINE RIVER RIV DAVIS RMB 141( LOFT PO BOX ( KINNERSLEY RMB 944 LANG POBOX	PO BOX 52 214 GLOUCESTER ROAD PO BOX 140 RIVER ROAD RIVER ROAD RMB 1415 MURRAY VALLEY HWAY KYABRAM PO BOX 359 CARLTON PO BOX 5423 CRANBOU PO BOX 5423 CRESWICH PO BOX 206 RMB 944 HEALESVI	CREEK F AH F F RNE PARK C C	NSW 2806 02 6859 2539 NSW 2429 02 6550 6306 SA 5242 08 8388 4205 SA 5245 08 8388 7347 VIC 3620 03 5867 3228 VIC 3053 03 9347 7146 VIC 3977 03 5998 8218 VIC 3363 03 5343 4258 VIC 3777	02 6859 2539 02 6859 2567 lantec@westserv.net.au 02 6850 6306 02 9831 1106 alpinegame@one.net.au 02 8388 4205 08 8388 7405 hvensupp@dove.net.au 03 5867 3228 03 5867 3228 0417 156 327 03 9347 7146 03 9347 6906 0418 557 122 03 5343 4248 0418 557 122 03 5343 4258 03 5343 4248 0418 550 3949	li a } 327 } 354 monarchver 1 122 } 949	lantec@westserv.net.au alpinegame@one.net.au hvensupp@dove.net.au enison@netspace.net.au

## Contacts - Page 12

PANY	NAME	SURNAME	ADDRESS	TOWN ST PC PHONE FAX MOBILE EMAIL	ST PC	PHONE	FAX	MOBILE	EMAIL
ARY SPECIALISTS	(C								
	DR LAURIE	DENHOLM	PO BOX 1564	ORANGE	NSW 2800	02 6391 3863	3 02 6391 389	NSW 2800 02 6391 3863 02 6391 3899 0418 641 957	denholml@bigpond.com
	DR TONY	ENGLISH	DEPT VET CLINICAL SCIENCES, PMB 3 CAMDEN	3 CAMDEN	NSW 2570	02 9351 1675	5 02 9351 161	NSW 2570 02 9351 1675 02 9351 1618 0412 377 820	aeng5919@mail.usyd.edu.au
	>	HANSEN	57 MOLONG ROAD	ORANGE	NSW 2800	NSW 2800 02 6361 8388 02 6362 3970	3 02 6362 397	02	hansena@netwit.net.au
	DR PHILLIP	CHAMBERLAIN	PO BOX 206	SAMFORD	QLD 4520	QLD 4520 07 3289 1887 07 3289 1671	7 07 3289 167	71	p.chamberlain@mailbox.uq.edu.au
	DR JOHN	GRAINGER	LINCOLN VETERINARY CENTRE	PORT LINCOLN SA 5606 08 8682 3100 08 8682 6842	SA 5606	08 8682 3100	08 8682 684	12	marggran@camtech.net.au
		KING	19 WILSONS ROAD	KETTERING	TAS 7155	TAS 7155 03 6267 4741			pennyk42@hotmail.com
	DR MATT	DRAISMA	PO BOX 308	WARRAGUL	VIC 3820	VIC 3820 03 5623 2525	10		
	DR PAUL	PRESIDENTE	475 MICKLEHAM ROAD	ATTWOOD	VIC 3049	3049 03 9217 4393 03 9217 4328	3 03 9217 432	58	Paul. Presidente@nre.vic.gov.au
	DR JACK	WINTERBOTTOM	<b>VINTERBOTTOM</b> MAFFRA VETERINARY HOSPITAL	MAFFRA	VIC 3860	VIC 3860 03 5147 1177 03 5147 1650	7 03 5147 165	20	jackwin@magnet.com.au
	DR SUE	JOUBERT	15 ROYAL STREET	KENWICK	WA 6107	WA 6107 08 9459 7999 08 9549 1058	9 08 9549 105	28	joubert@directnet.com.au