



HASTINGS COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SECTION

5 January 2005

Feral Deer Control Implemented in 2005

The Mid North Coast Feral Deer Working Group has announced that on ground controls to reduce feral deer numbers should become a reality early in 2005.

Hastings Council's representative on the Working Group, Matthew Rogers, believes extensive research and consultation has paved the way for the control program.

"A number of people have put a great deal of time and effort into the issue of feral deer control and it appears as though some positive outcomes will be seen in the near future. In particular, members of the Hastings Valley Hunting Club have done a great job over the past few months with the voluntary work they have carried out to assess feral deer distribution in the Port Macquarie area

"The Working Party has also been working closely with stakeholders and relevant agencies to devise realistic controls for feral deer as a result of this assessment", said Mr Rogers.

Following appropriate risk assessments, a number of site-specific control programs for private land have been approved and will be implemented by local licensed shooters under the supervision of the NSW Game Council. Hastings Council staff are also developing a draft control program for Council owned landholding in the Thrumster area.

The NSW Scientific Committee (established by the Threatened Species Conservation Act) has established that environmental degradation by feral deer is a significant threat. Increasing numbers of feral deer is not a problem limited to the Mid North Coast with other areas, including the southern districts of Sydney facing similar issues.

The Mid North Coast Feral Deer Working Group comprises of representatives from the Department of Environment and Conservation (NPWS), the Department of Primary Industries (Game Council and NSW Forests), RSPCA, Rural Lands Protection Board, NSW Police, FAWNA, the Hastings Valley Hunting Club and Hastings Council.

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