Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the control of invasive animals on Crown land.

Mr James Findlay

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Concerns Re: Deer Population on crown land and impact on adjoining property

I have a small farm (320 acres) with 3 sides crown land. I farm 200 1st cross ewes for prime lamb production.

I have seen a significant increase in Deer(Samba)numbers over the last 10 years. Not unusual to see mobs of 20+ grazing in my paddocks at night. It was once uncommon to see a deer at night, now it is unusual if you don't see one.

Impacts:
1) water ways seeing significant damage by deer wallowing creating erosion, vegetation loss (both on public and private land)

2)Impact on native vegetation through foraging. There are areas of National Park near Cheshunt that now have very little undergrowth, what does grow gets grazed.

3)Impact on adjoining farm land through increased grazing pressure, which means my stock are competing with the deer for grass. If I rest a paddock, it just gets grazed by the deer. If I sow a paddock to improved pasture, the deer graze it before it gets my stock get to. This all leads to a loss of productivity in my ability to farm. One adult deer must be the equivalent of at least 3 to 4 Sheep. So if I am seeing 20-30 deer that's 100 - 120 sheep I'm not able to feed.

4)Biosecurity. Imagine the impact on Agriculture if there was a Foot and Mouth outbreak. Not to mention other diseases/worms the deer may carry and transmit to my stock.

5)Increased Illegal poaching. Safety issue for adjoining land owners and park users.

6)Safety on Roads at night. I know many people who have run into them at night.Check insurance company for statics on how many deer have caused an
What to Do:
1) Possibly hunting Program, with registered shooters
2) Bounty
3) Investigate species specific biological controls
4) biological sterilisation program
5) Assist adjoining land owners in keeping them out, fencing subsidiary