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FEARS FERAL DEER NUMBERS RISING

By Andrea Frost

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Biosecurity Queensland say landholders have been reporting an increase in the number of feral deer and rabbits in north Queensland.

Chital deer are known to be well established around Charters Towers and parts of the Burdekin but there are concerns populations are expanding.

Zoologist Jim Mitchell says the recent wet seasons have provided ideal breeding conditions.

The deer knock down fences and compete with cattle for pasture.

Dr Mitchell says there are concerns the number of rabbits, one of Australia's biggest environmental pests, may also be on the rise in the northern region.

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