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NSW BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012

Deer Industry Association of Australia Annual Reports

NSW BRANCH PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Another quiet year for the deer industry in NSW with a further decline in membership from 15 to 12. According to Livestock Health and Pest Authority stock returns, there has been a further small decline in declared farm deer numbers from 11,726 as at 30th June 2011, to 10,723 at 30th June 2012.

Hume LHPA contains the most deer with 2,663, followed by Tablelands with 2,602 and New England with 1,359.

However, venison animals are in demand and prices for killers and velvet are stable, despite the high Australian dollar.

Wild shot (game) venison is competing with farmed venison in the NSW market. Game farming remains illegal in NSW and it is also illegal to field shoot deer on farms (where deer are husbanded behind wire) for the game meat market. All wild shot carcasses must be processed in licenced processing plants if to be sold for human consumption. Purchasers should be aware that wild shot animals are handled and processed to a different standard to farmed deer slaughtered and processed at an abattoir. The product should be so labelled so that purchasers can make an informed decision.

There has been no progress on the NSW Deer Act and I have been informed by the NSW DPI that it will be incorporated into a new Biosecurity Act. I have been assured that the deer farming industry will be consulted during the development of this act as a major stakeholder. This contact with government underlines the importance of the state branches, even if membership is small.

I thank secretary Rod Faulks for his support throughout the year and wish NSW deer farmers a prosperous and healthy 2013.

Andrew Hansen
President, NSWBranch, DIAA