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VIC BRANCH PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Deer Industry Association of Australia Annual Reports

It's no news to any deer farmer that times are tough and have been for quite a while now. The tough times also apply to the DIAA, ADH&CP and the NRS and some hard decisions must be made in the coming year.

The NRS problem started when the government directed that the "NRS is required to be fully cost recovered". So the NRS simply raised the levy rate, however low production numbers in venison has put the NRS system in jeopardy with an ever-diminishing levy base.

In the last financial year, there was a throughput of 223,234kg. With a levy rate last year of 4c/kg this returned \$9,509. Even with an increase to 6c/kg this year, it would only return \$13,026, still well below the estimated NRS charges of \$21,659. However they do have the option to raise the levy up to a cap of 10.5c/kg.

ADH&CP has also experienced lower throughput in its operation and this has forced the directors to review its future.

Last season ADH&CP had 3.8MT out of a declared cut of 12.1t from levy figures. Coupled with a declining workforce at the pools and ever increasing costs, the operation of the pools is in financial and operational stress.

The DIAA has experienced declining membership and consequently a declining income over the last 10 years. All states, except Victoria, require exemptions each year from the constitutional requirements to operate. It is time to review the DIAA structure.

For example when we had a membership of 306 we had an executive of 7. Last year our membership was 86 whilst we still had the same executive numbers and consequential costs.

Whilst the above mentioned problems for ADH&CP and the DIAA are very serious, there are options to correct them and I urge all Victorian deer farmers to get involved in the options and solutions.

Finally, as this is my last report as President of the Victorian Branch, I would like to thank all the Branch executives over the last 12 years and farmers from across the state for the help and support that I received.

The Victorian Branch is in a very sound financial position and with Andrew McKinnon taking over as President I am convinced that it will continue to be strength to the industry.

It has been a great experience that I will treasure in my dotage.

Jim Moir
Past-President, Vicbranch DIAA