

Feral Deer Aerial Shooting Control Program

2022 Information for participating landholders

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Aerial shooting of feral animals from a helicopter is an effective and efficient control option that can be used across a variety of habitat and land types.

Aerial shooting can remove pest animals missed by other control programs (e.g. mustering or trapping), helping to achieve landscape scale control in a short timeframe.

Since 2009 the Limestone Coast Landscape Board's feral deer aerial control program has removed 12,841 feral deer from the landscape. In addition, a number of secondary targets have been removed including; 350 goats and 161 foxes. The program has evolved substantially over the years; the first operation involved a five day program with a single helicopter in nine Department for Environment and Water (DEW) reserves and no private lands.

Since 2014 the program has expanded to utilise two helicopters throughout autumn and spring. The September 2021 program involved 57 private landholders (59,228 ha) and 22 DEW reserves (68,875 ha), covering approximately 4.2% of the Limestone Coast Landscape Region.

Qualifications and experience

Aerial shooting operations are undertaken by a small team of experienced and competent government personnel. All personnel involved in these operations have undergone a selection process prior to completing the required training and accreditation for aerial shooting operations.

Operations are undertaken in accordance with DEW policies and apply best practice procedures to the humane shooting of feral animals. All marksmen hold the applicable firearms licence category and Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) approvals to carry and discharge firearms on an aircraft.

Likewise, helicopter operators must hold the applicable approvals from CASA to undertake aerial shooting operations. Helicopter pilots must hold the required licences and permits, and have the appropriate skills and experience to undertake aerial shooting operations.

Recording

Recording of the location, number and species of deer shot is conducted by the pilot and marksman using a GPS (global positioning system) enabled data logger. Flight tracking data (track logs) are also recorded using GPS.

GPS enabled computer mapping software is used in flight to provide maps to the marksmen and pilots to identify the operational area, any buffer or no-flight zones, and flight hazards. Property information provided by landholders in their Landholder Agreements is used to create accurate operational maps which clearly identify property boundaries and operational areas, and these are updated for each aerial shooting operation.

Landholder Agreements

Participating landholders are required by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board to sign an annual Landholder Agreement. This document captures the relevant property information including; the Hundred and section numbers, area of property approved for access, areas not approved for access, livestock to be moved and other requirements.

Landholder Agreements also require landholders to conduct follow up feral deer control work with ground shooting in order to maximise the effectiveness of the aerial shooting program.

Information on who is participating in the aerial shooting program is considered to be confidential, and participant or property details are not made publicly available.

Insurance

DEW supply confirmation of insurance in respect of Public Liability and Professional Indemnity for all Landscape Boards of SA.

All approved aerial shooting programs are covered by DEW under the Insurance and Risk Management arrangements with the South Australian Government Financing Authority (SAFA). Under this agreement between SAFA and DEW, SAFA will meet the cost of any Civil Liability claim made against DEW. The cover amount is without limit, subject to DEW's selected deductible. A letter of confirmation of insurance protection can be provided to landholders upon request.

The background of helicopter companies involved in aerial shooting operations is also thoroughly explored to ensure the areas of insurance, air safety, maintenance and reliability are thoroughly covered.

Important information for aerial control activities

- Aerial control activities will occur during these closure periods, and will be focussed within the boundaries of the listed conservation parks unless otherwise approved.
- Private landowners will be participating where written agreements are in place.
- It will be assumed that inclusion of private land in the aerial control activities will be as per written agreements unless otherwise advised.
- If you wish to have your property included in the aerial control activities, you MUST complete and return a Landholder Agreement Form to provide written permission for this activity.
- Private landholders must supply a map of all participating properties, showing areas to be included in the program.
- The details of the activities on private land can be discussed with project staff to ensure your specific requirements are met.
- Due to the very tight schedule of aerial activities, it will not be possible to notify landholders of the specific days that aerial activities will be occurring on or near their properties.
- In the interests of public safety and avoiding unnecessary concern, we strongly advise all landholders ensure that any tenants on or visitors to their properties are advised of the project activities.

DEW Reserve Closure Details- 2022 Aerial Operations

4-8 April 2022 Hybrid Aerial Operation	12 – 16 September 2022 Hybrid Aerial Operation	17 - 21 October 2022 Hybrid Aerial Operation
<p>The following DEW reserves will be closed from 6.00pm on Sunday 3rd April 2022 until 6.00am on Saturday 9th April 2022-</p>	<p>The following DEW reserves will be closed from 6.00pm on Sunday 11th September 2022 until 6.00am on Saturday 17th September 2022 -</p>	<p>The following DEW reserves will be closed from 6.00pm on Sunday 16th October 2022 until 6.00am on Saturday 22nd October 2022-</p>
<p>Bangham Conservation Park, Big Heath Conservation Park, Bunbury Conservation Reserve, Desert Camp Conservation Reserve, Fairview Conservation Park, Furner Conservation Park, Geegeela Conservation Park, Gum Lagoon Conservation Park, Hanson Scrub Conservation Park, Jip Jip Conservation Park, Kungari Conservation Park, Lake Hawdon South Conservation Park, Lake St Clair Conservation Park, Martin Washpool Conservation Park, Mary Seymour Conservation Park, Messent Conservation Park, Mount Boothby Conservation Park, Mount Scott Conservation Park, Reedy Creek Conservation Park, Talapar Conservation Park, Tilley Swamp Conservation Park and Woakwine Conservation Park.</p> <p>In addition-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of the Coorong National Park will be closed from 6.00pm on Monday 4th April 2022 until 6.00am Friday 8th April 2022. This closure applies from an east west line from Parnka Point (S 35 54'40.7" E 139 23'42.9") to the southern boundary of the Coorong National Park (S 36 32'11.5" E 139 49'33.2"). • No vehicles will be allowed access via entrances along the Ocean Beach from the southern Coorong National Park Boundary, Old Coorong Road and Loop Road. This will include 28 Mile Crossing, Wreck Crossing, 32 Mile Crossing, 42 Mile Crossing and Tea Tree Crossing during this closure period. 	<p>•Bangham Conservation Park, •Big Heath Conservation Park, •Bunbury Conservation Reserve, •Desert Camp Conservation Park, •Desert Camp Conservation Reserve •Fairview Conservation Park, •Furner Conservation Park, •Geegeela Conservation Park, •Gum Lagoon Conservation Park, •Hanson Scrub Conservation Park, •Jip Jip Conservation Park, •Kungari Conservation Park, •Lake Hawdon South Conservation Park, •Lake St Clair Conservation Park, Little Dip Conservation Park •Martin Washpool Conservation Park, •Mary Seymour Conservation Park, •Messent Conservation Park, •Mount Boothby Conservation Park, •Mount Scott Conservation Park, •Reedy Creek Conservation Park, •Talapar Conservation Park, •Tilley Swamp Conservation Park, •Woakwine Conservation Park.</p> <p>In addition-</p> <p>Part of the Coorong National Park will be closed from from 6:00pm on Monday 12th September 2022 until 6:00am on Friday 16th September 2022. The closure applies to the Younghusband Peninsula east of Tauwiche Point, Parnka Point, and south of Salt Creek to the southern Park Boundary.</p> <p>30 September - 8 October 2022 Thermal Assisted Aerial Cull</p> <p>The following DEW reserves will be closed from 6:00pm on Friday 30th September 2022 until 6:00am on Saturday 8th October 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gum Lagoon Conservation Park 	<p>•Bangham Conservation Park, •Big Heath Conservation Park, •Bunbury Conservation Reserve, •Desert Camp Conservation Park, •Desert Camp Conservation Reserve, •Fairview Conservation Park, •Furner Conservation Park, •Geegeela Conservation Park, •Gum Lagoon Conservation Park, •Hanson Scrub Conservation Park, •Jip Jip Conservation Park, •Kungari Conservation Park, •Lake Hawdon South Conservation Park, •Lake St Clair Conservation Park, •Martin Washpool Conservation Park, •Mary Seymour Conservation Park, •Messent Conservation Park, •Mount Boothby Conservation Park, •Mount Scott Conservation Park, •Reedy Creek Conservation Park, •Talapar Conservation Park, •Tilley Swamp Conservation Park, •Woakwine Conservation Park.</p> <p>In addition-</p> <p>Part of the Coorong National Park will be closed from 6.00pm on Monday 17th October 2022 until 6.00am Friday 21st October 2022. This closure applies from an east-west line from Parnka Point (S 35 54'40.7" E 139 23'42.9") to the southern boundary of the Coorong National Park (S 36 32'11.5" E 139 49'33.2").</p>

Please visit the South Australian Parks and Wildlife website for the most up to date area and campground closures at www.parks.sa.gov.au.

Acknowledgements

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Disclaimer

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More information

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Mount Gambier Office

11 Helen Street (PO Box 1046)
Mount Gambier SA 5290
P. 08 8429 7550

Landholder Agreement

2022 Feral Deer Spring Aerial Control Program

Limestone Coast Landscape Board

Feral deer cause adverse impacts to the environment, to agriculture, and to public safety. Feral deer are pest animals declared for control under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*. As such, landholders are required to eradicate feral deer from their property at their own expense. The Feral Deer Aerial Control Program provides assistance to landholders to meet their legislative responsibilities.

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board have allocated Landscape Levy and Commonwealth funds that will be used for aerial control and survey techniques to reduce populations of feral deer across the region. The Limestone Coast Landscape Board would like to fund aerial feral deer control on your property, and this is an opportunity for you to:

- Achieve a high level of feral deer control across the landscape at no up-front cost to you
- Help out the natural environment in a practical way
- Fulfil your obligations under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.

Limestone Coast Landscape Board Agreement

The Limestone Coast Landscape Board will:

1. Pay for an accredited government aerial marksman to shoot feral deer by helicopter over your property during September & October 2022.
2. Ensure the highest level of compliance with animal welfare codes of practice.
3. Require you to conduct follow up feral deer control work with ground shooting.

Signed:



Date: Monday, 8 August 2022

Name and Position: Aidan Laslett – Project Officer, Feral Deer

Landholder Agreement

I/we agree that by signing this Management Agreement;

1. I/we consent to accredited government aerial marksman to shoot feral deer by helicopter courtesy of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board on my/our property.
2. I/we will participate in the following operations (please tick preferred months)

12 - 16 September 2022

17-21 October 2022

3. I/we will undertake follow up feral deer control efforts to ensure the feral deer population is destroyed on an ongoing basis.
4. I/we have read 'Feral Deer Aerial Shooting Control Program 2022- Information for participating landholders'.

Landholder Agreement

2022 Feral Deer Aerial Control Program Information

Owner/Manager's name:	
Property Name and Address:	Postal Address:
Email:	
Phone:	Mobile:

Project site area and location	Hundred/s: Sections:
Previous Participants: Is the area of property approved for access the same as the 2021 program?	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> If no, please answer the following questions.
Area of property APPROVED for access	
Area of property NOT approved for access	
Livestock to be moved	
Other requirements	
Property Map/s	Please attach

Please note- electronic signatures are accepted

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name: _____