

Mr Matthew Allen
Secretary
Tasmanian Deer Advisory Committee
11 Samclay court
PERTH TAS 7300

U 1 MAR 2010

Dear Mr Allen

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2010 requesting Labor's policies and views on hunting and deer management in Tasmania.

As requested I have addressed below each of the topics raised in your letter.

Would your government continue to support the current game seasons in Tasmania?

Yes, a re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will support the current game seasons.

Would your government continue to support the Game management Unit within DPIPWE?

Again, yes a re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will continue to support this Unit within DPIPWE.

Would your government redirect hunting fees back to the Game Management unit?

As a general rule fees collected by Government are not quarantined to the area from which they are collected. To do so would leave areas such as Health, Education and Police without sufficient support and funds.

In relation to fees paid by recreational shooters, the level of costs for these licences has been based on the basic costs to Government of the issuing of a licence, the production of tags and some information on the regulations.

It is clear that the cost of providing for deer hunting exceeds the total amount of revenue from licence sales.

Would your government continue the commitment to the management of deer as a sustainable resource?

Yes, I can assure your Committee that a re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will continue to manage deer as a sustainable hunting resource.

Would your government continue to support the use of shotguns for the taking of wallabies for recreational hunting and browsing damage control?

As you will be aware a new National Code of Practice for the shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies has been agreed to by Ministers from all States and Territories and has since come into force. During the Development of the Code, David Llewellyn, Minister for Primary Industries and Water went to considerable lengths to ensure that Tasmania's circumstances and practices were recognised.

As a result the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes clearly recognises the use of shotguns in Tasmania.

Would your government support extra staff in the Game Management Unit, since numbers has been reduced?

Labor is constantly reviewing the allocation and use of resources to provide better services. A re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will ensure that the staff allocated to the Game Management Unit is sufficient to undertake their role.

Would your government continue to support the GMU to collect data on ducks and deer?

Yes a re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will continue to support the GMU to collect data on ducks and deer.

What is your policy on the commercial harvesting of Fallow deer in Tasmania?

Labor will not consider any proposal to allow commercial use of deer until consensus is reached on this matter.

Would your party support employing additional wildlife ranger especially before and after the March deer season?

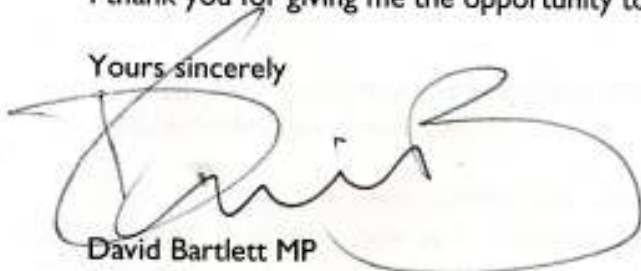
A re-elected Bartlett Labor Government will ensure that there are adequate staffing levels in all Government agencies for all functions to be properly carried out.

Would your party support a young hunter education program?

Labor is supportive of programs that provide education and training to young members of our community and would be pleased to receive details of the proposed hunter education program.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on these issues.

Yours sincerely



David Bartlett MP
Premier