



2 March 2010

Mr Matthew Allen
TDAC Secretary
11 Samclay Court
Perth Tas 7300

Dear Matthew

Tasmanian Liberals have a proud record of standing firmly for the rights of Tasmanians in the traditional recreation of hunting and we intend to continue the very positive relationship with the TDAC and its associated bodies.

Question 1: Would your government continue to support the current game seasons in Tasmania?

Yes

Question 2: Would you government continue to support the Game Management Unit within the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment?

Yes

Question 3: Would your party redirect hunting licence fees back to the Game Management Unit, as with Tasmanian Trout fishing licence fees being currently directed and utilized by the Inland Fisheries to improve our world renowned trout fishery?

While we generally approve of the application of licensing fees directly back to services for those paying the licence it is not clear to us whether the Game Management Unit is in the best position to provide that level of service.

A Hodgman Liberal Government will be pleased to work with the TDAC to consider the services the Game Management Unit currently provides and what it could further do.

Question 4: Would your government continue the commitment to the management of deer as a sustainable hunting resource, bearing in mind from our recent survey, over 1300 licensed hunted in Tasmania inject approximately 26 million dollars per annum into the Tasmanian economy?

There is no question that recreational hunting in itself provides a substantial boost to the economy of the State.

The Management of Deer as a sustainable hunting resource would appear to be the right thing to do from an economic point of view as well as from the perspective of the traditional enjoyment derived from the healthy outdoor activity of recreational hunting in general, and the maintenance of cultural practices of hunting for a feed.

Question 5: Would your government continue to support the use of shotguns for the taking of wallabies for both recreational hunting and browsing damage control?

Yes

Question 6: Would your government support extra staff for the Game Management Unit, as the current Game Management Unit has had their staff numbers significantly reduced in the past two years?

See answer to question 3; we would be pleased to discuss the needs in this area with you.

Question 7: Would your government continue to support the Game Management Unit to collect data forms on both deer and ducks?

Yes

Question 8: What is the policy of your party on the commercial harvesting of Fallow deer in Tasmania?

We have formed the position that if there were to be any extra tags provided for deer then the general principle should be that they go to recreational hunters first.

Question 9: Would your party support employing additional wildlife rangers, especially before and after the March deer season?

We have been concerned for some time about the winding back of the number of Wildlife Rangers and the major budget cuts to Parks and Wildlife Service. However, recently the Government announced, with our support, a \$10m reinjection into this area which should see additional rangers available. In the interim we will ensure that Tasmania Police ramp up their anti-poaching activities, particularly before and after the March deer season.

Question 10: Would your party support and fund young hunter education programs, currently being resourced and implemented by member groups of the TDAC, bearing in mind the effectiveness of taking wildlife under crop protection permits with firearms and the proper phasing out of 1080 poison by 2015

We have long been interested in the issue of intergenerational transfer of skills in the area of firearms handling and recreational hunting, in fact have been the only Party actively pursuing changes to the firearms law which has placed Tasmania out of step with the rest of the Nation in this area. We will be interested in considering young hunter educational programs particularly in light of the public expectation that 1080 poison be phased out in favour of browsing animal control by hunting.

Liberal policies

All Liberal policies can be found at www.tasliberal.com.au, as announced.

Tasmania's recreational hunters can look with confidence to the election of a Hodgman Liberal Government which will treat recreational hunters and firearms users with more respect than they have enjoyed in the past.

Yours sincerely



**Will Hodgman MP
Leader of the Opposition**