

**MITTA VALLEY LANDCARE INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**27<sup>th</sup> November 2022.**  
**PROJECT REPORT ON DEER – Karen Moroney**

- Learning to work in a hybrid connected environment, has allowed us to be involved in more external activities regarding deer management this past 12 months. The professional harvesting initiative continues to work successfully in the Mitta Valley and nearby regions with harvesters again reporting significant numbers being taken from farms in our area. As in previous years, we have continued to monitor opportunities to be involved in the deer space with the aim of making a difference to our community.
- **Activities Locally:**
  - Members took the opportunity to attend a Gallagher Deer Fencing Day held in the Tallangatta Valley in the month of February. Consequently, Mitta Valley Landcare engaged Gallagher to run an electric fencing demonstration day at Eskdale in April 2022 with a focus on pest animals in conjunction with DELWP.
  - Simon continues to look for fence funding for Deer defence purposes.
  - Bio-Security questions were paramount around deer during July- August of this year as the threat of FMD and LSD became real with an incursion in Indonesia, most notably Bali, where so many Australians holiday. Deer are right along our Eastern Seaboard now, so the threat is real, and it is really a watch and monitor situation with no real solutions if the worst were to happen simply because of the nature of deer. WGR (deer harvesters) have stringent hygiene protocols to follow when moving from property to property which was the main question to be addressed by our group.
  - Wildlife Submission Act 1975 Review DELWP, Victoria.  
MVLG put in a submission to this review which was focused on renaming Deer as a Pest animal from the present classification of “game”. The full content of our submission can be viewed on request in our submission of 25 June,2021. We received no feedback from this submission but to date the status of deer remains as a game species and not reclassified to pest
  - Karen (farmer/landholder) featured in an article in the Border Mail (September) on re-classification of deer along with views from Simon (harvester), VDCCN (concerned citizens network on deer) giving readers a good feel for both sides of the argument for and against re-classification to Pest species.
- **Activities Externally:**
  - We continue to represent the Mitta Valley Landcare Group at regional level Karen is still a member of the Regional Deer Network with only one meeting held in March in Wangaratta. Focus was on the Vic Deer Strategy.
  - The Victorian Deer Management Strategy funded by the Victorian State Government was formed in January, with three distinct groups being formed: Peri-

Urban, Eastern and Gippsland. 20 representatives from each area were invited to be involved, Karen Moroney was invited to have a seat on the Eastern Strategy group which she accepted. Work for the Eastern Strategy commenced in May/June and was concluded in October 2022. The results and actions are still being collated for a final draft due out at the end of November. Much of the strategy is concentrated on Public and Government assets with much less focus on any initiatives for the private sector management. However, this is being redressed by the group who acknowledge that it needs more balance. Thank you to Simon who acted as a proxy for me when I could not get to meetings.

The MVL Inc was invited to join the Victorian Deer Control Community Network in September 2021. Karen was successful in being elected to the Committee for the 2022 year and has just completed a full year. This group is very active and while the main focus is on Peri-Urban with many on the Committee from these areas, it has been an interesting year and good to see, that while we have had differing views, particularly around classification of Deer the VDCCN strive to give balanced views on the subject, being inclusive of many organisations. I did not stand for re-election to the Committee, but we will continue to contribute and be members of the VDCCN who are doing great work to bring awareness to the problems Deer create in our communities and on our farmlands.

End Of Report  
Thank You  
Karen Moroney