

# Victoria Government Gazette

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By Authority, Victorian Government Printer

**SPECIAL** 

#### **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Wildlife (Game) (Deer Amendment) Regulations 2000

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Wildlife (Game) (Deer Amendment) Regulations 2000.

The objectives of the proposed Regulations are to amend the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 1990 to:

- provide hunting opportunity for Fallow Deer which may assist with the reduction of illegally established free-ranging Fallow Deer populations throughout Victoria;
- allow for the sustainable management of the Fallow Deer population in the Municipality of Towong;
- establish a minimum fee for the administration of balloted hunts:
- reduce the illegal spotlighting of game deer in Victoria; and
- improve the management of Sambar Deer hunting with scent-trailing hounds in Victoria.

The proposed Regulations will introduce a year-round open season for Fallow Deer with no bag limit except in the Municipality of Towong where balloted hunting will be used to manage a population at Koetong. These Regulations will minimise the economic impact of Fallow Deer in Victoria. Hunting will be permitted on private lands with the owner's permission and on public lands where deer hunting is currently provided for, except public land reserved under the National Parks Act 1975 (e.g. National and State Parks). The RIS discusses two alternatives to the proposed Regulations: maintaining the existing Authority to Control Wildlife system and revoking the status of Fallow Deer as "wildlife". The proposed regulations were considered to be the best means of achieving the objective as they require less funding than the first alternative and provide greater control over hunting activity, including the time that hunting occurs and the methods employed, than the second alternative.

There is currently no legislative framework or restriction on the application of fees for balloted hunts in Victoria. It is proposed to introduce a maximum fee of \$50 for any Game Licence holder who is required to take part in a ballot to hunt. This proposal will impose an upper limit on fees and ensure hunters are not required to pay more than \$50 to participate in a ballot. This will also allow some flexibility in the setting of fees for the recovery of costs relating to the management of balloted hunts and the wildlife population. Fees for balloted hunts that are currently conducted in Victoria are expected to remain unchanged under this proposal. One alternative to the proposed regulation was considered: introduce a legislative framework for balloted hunts with no fee. The proposed regulation was considered the best means of achieving the objective as costs associated with the management of balloted hunts would not be met under the alternative.

Current spotlighting Regulations will be amended under the proposed Regulations to create an offence to be in possession of a spotlight and an accessible firearm on public land in recognised deer habitat between the hours of sunset and sunrise. These Regulations will improve the ability of enforcement officers to prosecute alleged offenders undertaking illegal spotlighting activities. The RIS discusses one alternative to the proposed Regulations: maintaining the existing spotlighting Regulations and increasing the resources to manage the problem. The proposed Regulations were considered the best means of achieving the objective as they are more efficient and cost-effective than the alternative.

The proposed Regulations will introduce a number of new Regulations and consolidate existing requirements of the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting and those detailed elsewhere into the Wildlife (Game) Regulations to improve the management of Sambar Deer Hunting with scent-trailing hounds. These Regulations are expected to: minimise the impact of hound hunting activities on affected local residents and recreational

users, including other hunters; reduce illegal activity associated with this form of hunting; and, improve the accountability of hound hunters. The RIS discusses one alternative to the proposed Regulations: prohibiting hound hunting in Victoria. The proposed Regulations were considered the best means of achieving the objective as they reduce illegal activities, minimise conflicts of interest and continue to provide hound hunting opportunities in Victoria.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained by contacting the NRE Consumer Service Centre on 136 186 to have a copy sent to you. The RIS is also available at the NRE internet site http://www.nre.vic.gov.au under Recreation and Tourism, Hunting.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and must be received at the following address by no later than 5.00 p.m. on 18 August 2000: Mr Scott Lawrence, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, P.O. Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002.

Submissions may also be emailed to: scott.lawrence@nre.vic.gov.au.

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

SHERRYL GARBUTT MP Minister for Environment and Conservation



BY-LAW NO. 180

By-Law for regulating water supply and sewerage plumbing in the water supply district of the Barwon Region Water Authority.

Notice is hereby given that the above By-Law received Ministerial approval on July 11, 2000.

The By-Law regulates water supply plumbing connections by the community to the Barwon Region Water Authority's reticulated water supply system and regulates sewerage plumbing connections to the Authority's sewerage system.

This By-Law shall be substituted for By-Law No. 174.

A copy of the By-Law No. 180 is open for inspection free of charge at Barwon Water's office situated at 61-67 Ryrie Street, Geelong during normal office hours 8.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

By Order.

GRANT GREEN Secretary

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