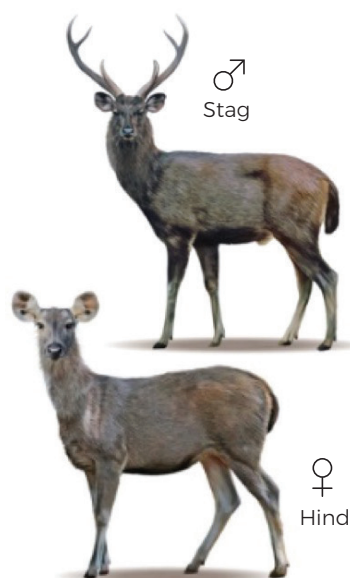


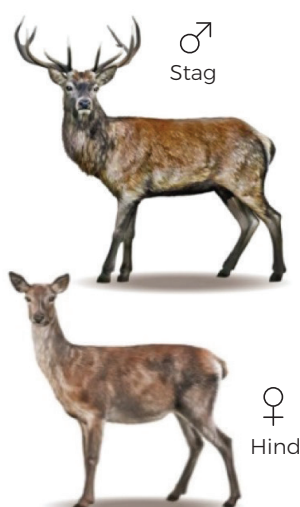


DEER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION FOR LANDHOLDERS



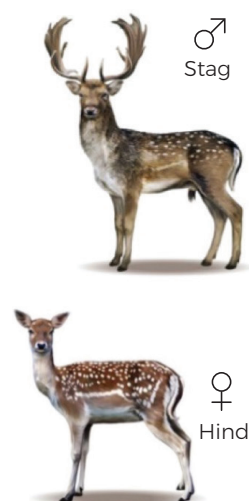
SAMBAR DEER

Sambar are large (110-270kg) are solitary by nature and live in family groups



RED DEER

Red Deer are medium size (90-160kg), living in single sex groups



FALLOW DEER

Fallow are smaller (35-90Kg) usually found in herds

FERAL DEER IN YOUR AREA

Deer are an introduced species in Australia. Six feral deer species have established wild populations in Australia, with the distribution and abundance of some species increasing in Victoria. The main feral deer species you're likely to encounter are Sambar, however Fallow and Red deer have also been sighted in Manningham.

DEER HARBOUR

Deer are found in bushland and open forest where there is access to pasture that provides food, water and shelter. They are also found in urban fringe areas and along corridors of bush and creek lines. Deer will follow these corridors, adapting to living near people and their animals.

The outer eastern and northern fringes of Melbourne are part of the geographical range of Sambar, Fallow and Red deer.

DEER BEHAVIOUR

Deer display territorial behaviour by actively protecting their patch, and have dominance hierarchies in their groups. They can exhibit aggressive behaviour, particularly the larger deer, towards humans and livestock including horses. Deer have increased in both distribution and population across Victoria, especially since the mid-1990s.

In this area deer occur on land owned or managed by individuals, corporations and public authorities with the likelihood of a single deer ranging across all of these land tenures in a single day.

THE STATUS OF DEER

All deer in Victoria are managed under the Wildlife Act 1975 by the Game Management Authority (GMA). The GMA is a state government authority which has responsibility for the management of game animals. Deer are game species on public land, and unprotected on private land when they are proven to cause damage.

Deer control on private land is not administered by the GMA, however if the deer control contractor is intercepted by a GMA officer or Victoria Police the deer control contractor must be able to show written approval from the land owner and a Public Place Permit if required.

Public Place Permit: is permission to use a firearm in a populous or built up area. The granting of this permit is determined and administered by Victoria Police.

MANAGEMENT: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUNTING AND FERAL DEER CONTROL

Hunting is a recreational activity that includes the elements of fair chase and the taking of 'trophy deer' and/or removing meat for personal consumption.

A deer control program aims to remove deer that are causing damage and loss on your land. Deer control is done under controlled circumstances and overseen by the land manager. Options to conduct a deer control program on your land include:

- using the services of a professional deer control contractor;
- joining a community based program organised by local landholders or a Landcare Group

MANNINGHAM LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (LEAF)

All residents of Manningham are eligible to apply for LEAF funding for pre-approved deer control works. To be eligible for funding, deer control efforts requiring the use of a firearm must be conducted by a professional deer control contractor and meet all requirements of the 'Deer Management Requirements Checklist'. Council will reimburse a significant portion of the cost of deer control.

PUBLIC PLACE PERMIT

All of the Manningham Municipality is considered a 'Populous Place' by Victoria Police. Therefore, any use of firearms in Manningham requires a 'Public Place Permit', with an approved shooting plan by Victoria Police. A deer control contractor should arrange all the requirements of the Public

Place Permit on your behalf, including: property shooting plan, safe humane destruction and carcass removal and other tasks on the 'Deer Management Requirements Checklist'. You must give the contractor your written permission for them to control feral deer on your land and for safety you must notify your neighbours of when firearms will be used.

PRIVATE LAND DEER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Survey your land for signs of deer damage and record; you can use the DeerScan app. Recording these sightings enables Councils to form a clearer picture of where deer are congregating and moving over the change of seasons, and how numbers are changing over time.
- Speak with your neighbours to form or join a local deer action group or Landcare group;
- Consider deer exclusion fencing;
- Council's Environment Officers or your Local Landcare Group can help you find fencing contractors, professional deer controllers/harvesters and/or game meat processors;
- Make a private agreement to manage deer impact on your land by using a professional deer control contractor on a regular basis, particularly during times where agricultural activities are requiring protection.

COUNCIL: ACTIONS ON DEER CONCERNS IN THE COMMUNITY

Councils are responding to community requests for help and direction to help manage problems of feral deer damaging property, community safety issues and environmental loss on public and private land.

Manningham Council is being proactive, advocating to government for more effective deer management.

Council also aims to help landholders better understand the issues in deer management and create opportunities for improved community-based responses to manage deer problems in our area.

Council is requesting that the State Government and Victoria Police:

- ensure that firearms use in the commercial deer control and harvesting industry is regulated;
- develop a peri-urban best practice firearms protocol and standards; and
- develop a Victorian deer control & firearms competency and accuracy accreditation (with a training organisation i.e. TAFE) for both contractors and volunteer shooters particularly in the peri-urban context



Sambar Wallow



Antler Rubbing



Sambar Scats



Sambar Browsing

Photos: Cathy Willis

DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEER

Deer cause damage to plants, fences and agriculture as well as increasingly coming into contact with people and vehicles on roads. They are large, heavy hooved animals, capable of covering large areas, with indiscriminate eating of vegetation, both native and planted.

- Grazing of ground-storey (grasses, forbs and groundcovers) reduces food for native animals, and leading to bare earth and erosion
- Browsing of mid-storey shrubs – changes forest structure and cover, and destroys plants that

are food sources for important pollinators (bees, wasps etc)

- Rubbing with antlers destroys fences and trees
- Destroying home gardens, vegetable patches, large scale crops and vineyards by eating and trampling
- Cause erosion and flattening of vegetation from wallowing
- Reduction in water quality due to wallowing.

CONTROL OPTIONS

Fences

Due to their size, it is very difficult to exclude deer, however deer-proof fences of 1.8m high can be constructed, and modified to allow continued movement of native animals underneath. Protection of threatened plants (e.g. orchids) is usually undertaken through construction of small (sometimes temporary) fences or cages over individual plants, or fencing out larger areas with deer-proof fencing.

Crops, pasture, orchards and vines can be protected through large deer-proof fences but they are cost-prohibitive for very large areas.

Hunting

Hunting in Manningham is NOT permitted. Recreational hunters are not able to hunt on public or private land in Manningham, because all of the municipality has been declared a populous place. Even with permission of the landholder, a Recreational Firearms Licence prohibits use in populous areas, and licence holders would not be able to obtain the approval of Victoria Police for the necessary Public Place Permits.

Any use of firearms within the municipality must be conducted by a licenced professional pest animal controller or authorised officer with a 'Public Place Permit'. If you suspect the illegal use of firearms in your area please call Victoria Police on 000.

CURRENT DEER MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE LAND

Action	Cost	Effectiveness
Accept deer as part of landscape	Low	N/A
Guard individual/groups of plants	Medium-High cost	Medium – maintenance required
Property Deer exclusion fence	High	High - with ongoing maintenance
Incorporate electric fence option	High	Medium - options poorly known.
Control works to manage deer numbers – permitted in Manningham with a Public Place Permit	Ongoing medium to high cost. Some may be recouped through incentive programs / sale of deer meat.	Medium - re-invasion can occur; Must be ongoing long term.

MORE INFORMATION

Game Management Authority: 136 186

Prime Safe: (03) 9685 7333

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Deer Control Program: 136 186

Victorian Deer Control Community Network (VDCCN): <https://invasives.org.au/our-work/feral-animals/feral-deer/feral-deer-in-victoria/vdccn/>

Warrandyte Police: 9844 3231

Reporting Illegal firearms activity – Victoria Police: 000

RESOURCES

Controlling Deer on Private Property	gma.vic.gov.au/research/deer/deer-on-private-property
Deer meat processing	gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer/fact-sheets/deer-meat-processing
Commercial Deer processing	primesafe.vic.gov.au/licensing/meat/game-meat-processing/
Deer Recording App	feralscan.org.au/deerscan/
Public Place Permit	police.vic.gov.au/public-place-permits

COUNCIL INFORMATION

manningham.vic.gov.au/land-management-grants

manningham@manningham.vic.gov.au