

WHY IS FERAL DEER IDENTIFICATION SO IMPORTANT?

Deer are not native animals to Australia. They were introduced in the 19th Century and there are now six species of feral deer in Australia.

There are currently four known feral deer species in the Northern Rivers, but our local habitats are suitable for all six species.

We have a window of opportunity to prevent their numbers getting out of control, and causing significant impacts on road safety, our environment and the livelihoods of our farmers.

We encourage you to try identifying the feral deer species you see before you report it. This will give us the information we need to work with the community to manage their numbers quickly, effectively and humanely.

Thank you for your help.

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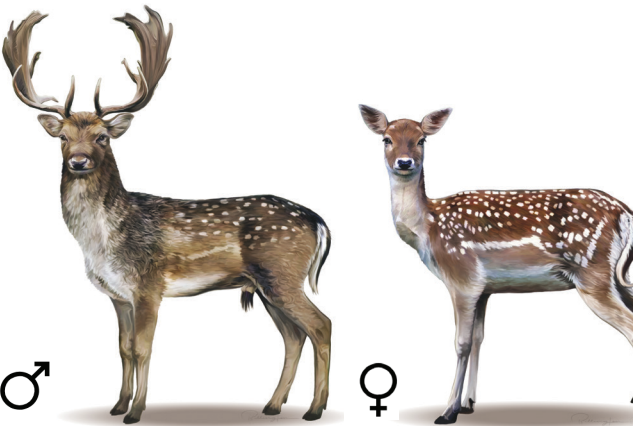
The feral deer species most likely to arrive in the Northern Rives are the **Fallow** and **Red Deer** from north and west, and the **Sambar Deer** from the south.

Thank you to Cumberland Land Conservancy, Landcare NSW, Greater Sydney Landcare Network, Local Land Services and Department of Primary Industries and the Game Management Authority, Victoria for the deer identification information and images in this guide.

Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program - Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds – Round 2 - an Australian Government initiative.

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FALLOW DEER (DAMA DAMA)



	MALE (BUCK)	FEMALE (DOE)
HEIGHT	Up to 95 cm	Up to 80 cm
WEIGHT	60-100 kg	40-50 kg
ANTLERS	Flattened antlers up 50 cm with numerous points.	
DESCRIPTION	Highly variable in colour including red, black, white and menil (spotted). Heart shaped pale rump patch with black outline. Long tail.	
	Males have: Penile sheath, Adams apple	

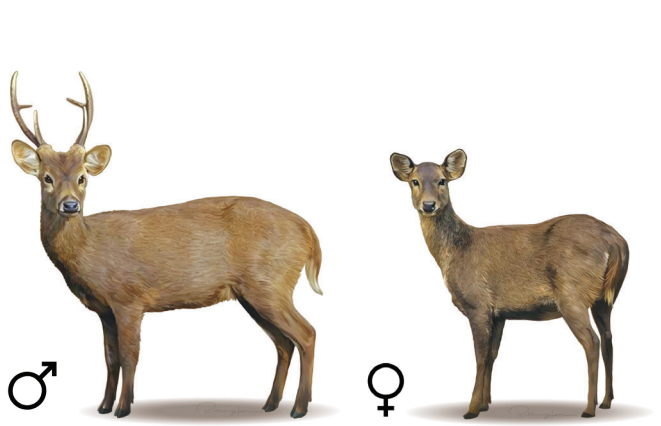
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CHITAL DEER (AXIS AXIS)



	MALE (BUCK)	FEMALE (DOE)
HEIGHT	Up to 95 cm	Up to 80 cm
WEIGHT	60-100 kg	40-50 kg
ANTLERS	Flattened antlers up 50 cm with numerous points.	
DESCRIPTION	Highly variable in colour including red, black, white and menil (spotted). Heart shaped pale rump patch with black outline. Long tail.	
	Males have: Penile sheath, Adams apple	

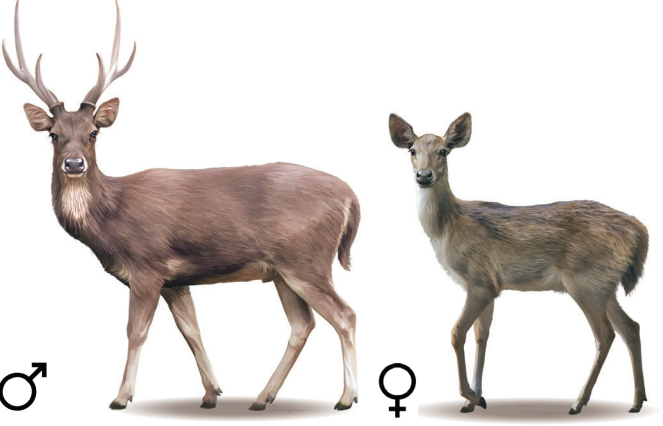
HOG DEER (AXIS PORCINUS)



	MALE (STAG)	FEMALE (HIND)
HEIGHT	Up to 70 cm	Up to 60 cm
WEIGHT	55 kg	30 kg
ANTLERS	Usually three points on each side, thin up to 35 cm	
DESCRIPTION	Uniform yellow-brown to red-brown coat. May have white spots in summer and a dark brown coat in winter. Underside is white/cream. Smallest deer species in Australia.	

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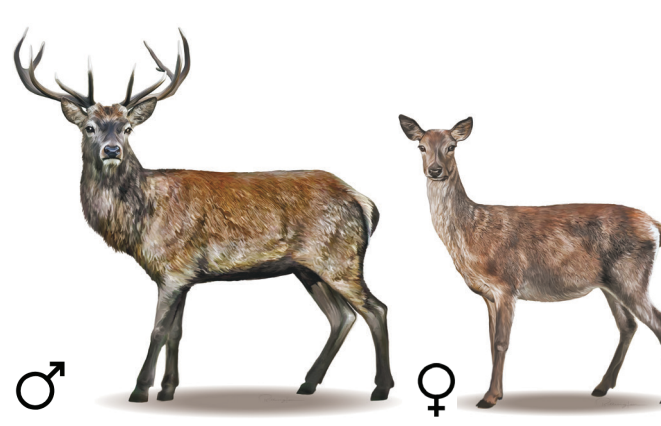
RUSA DEER (CERVUS TIMORENSIS)



	MALE (STAG)	FEMALE (HIND)
HEIGHT	Up to 110 cm	Up to 95 cm
WEIGHT	135 kg	90 kg
ANTLERS	Antlers three lyre-like tines. Up to 96 cm	
DESCRIPTION	Coat is coarse. Heavy dark grey-brown during winter. Reddish-brown during summer with light chest and throat spots.	
	Males have: Mane	

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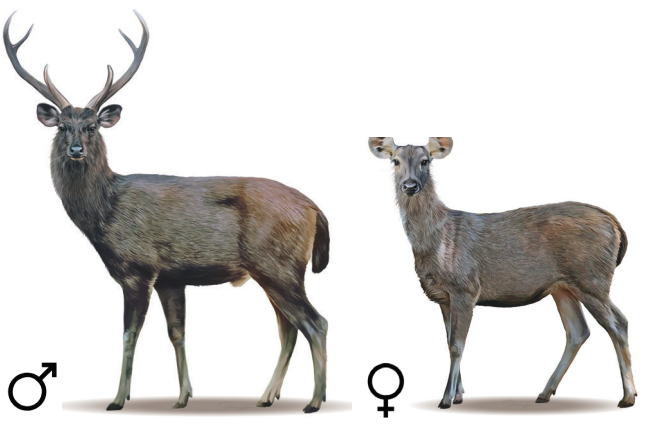
RED DEER (CERVUS ELAPHUS)



	MALE (STAG)	FEMALE (HIND)
HEIGHT	Up to 120 cm	Up to 90 cm
WEIGHT	135-220 kg	95 kg
ANTLERS	Multi-pointed coplex up to 90cm	
DESCRIPTION	Large pale rump patch. Ears are normal-ly long and pointed. Grey-brown in winter. Reddish in colour during summer. Short tail. Calves have distinct white spots.	

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SAMBAR DEER (CERVUS UNICOLOR)



	MALE (STAG)	FEMALE (HIND)
HEIGHT	Up to 160 cm	Up to 115 cm
WEIGHT	300 kg	230 kg
ANTLERS	Lyre-like, 3 tines per antler up to 70 cm.	
DESCRIPTION	Prominent bat like ears with pale inner. Uniform dark brown coat with ginger and cream under-parts and light buff colour under chin. Uniform. Hair is very stiff and coarse.	

! SAMBAR DEER (CERVUS UNICOLOR)

DISTRIBUTION

Sambar Deer have serious environmental impacts and are spreading across much of NSW. They are likely to arrive in the Northern Rivers from the south.

HABITAT & HERDING

- Sambar Deer are herbivores that graze on a wide range of grasses, shrubs and trees, depending on the season and availability of food
- They are regarded as solitary animals and are almost never found in herds
- They are semi-nocturnal and prefer to stay hidden during daylight
- They can swim with their bodies fully submerged with only their head above water
- September and October are their peak breeding season, but they can breed throughout the year.

! RED DEER (CERVUS ELAPHUS)

DISTRIBUTION

Red Deer are found in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. They can grow to three times the size of a red kangaroo and will pose significant risks on our roads if they become established the Northern Rivers.

HABITAT & HERDING

- Red Deer prefer mixed grassland, rainforest and woodland areas
- They may be seen in open areas but usually only when it's close to thick, timbered vegetation
- They mainly graze on woody trees and shrubs as well as grasses, sedges and forbs
- Red deer have a strong herding instinct and a highly developed social order
- Breeding is mainly in April, and females give birth 8-9 months later in December or January
- Males are only territorial during mating season and roar to attract females
- Males shed their antlers



Identifying deer scat (poo) can also help us monitor feral deer presence and numbers in The Northern Rivers

RUSA DEER (CERVUS TIMORENSIS)

DISTRIBUTION

In NSW Rusa are widely distributed along the NSW coast, Queensland and South Australia. Rusa Deer are likely to arrive from the north, west and south of our region.

HABITAT & HERDING

- Rusa Deer are herbivores that graze on a wide range of grasses, shrubs and trees.
- They are often seen in small groups
- They can breed all year round, and usually produce one calf between March and April
- They can breed with Sambar Deer and produce fertile offspring
- They can also breed with red deer, but only produce fertile female offspring
- The male Rusa Deer often decorates its antlers with twigs and grass during the breeding season to establish dominance over other males

HOG DEER (AXIS PORCINUS)

DISTRIBUTION

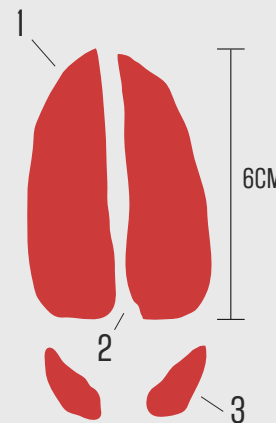
Known locations: Victoria and NSW

HABITAT & HERDING

- The Hog deer are inhabit coastal tea-tree swamps
- The hog deer is a herding animal
- They like to graze at dawn and dusk
- The males shed their antlers irregularly, but usually from August to October

DEER TRACKS

- Not easily distinguished from goat, sheep or pig but generally larger
- Two elongated toes make up the hoof (1)
- Slight gap between toes on both feet (2)
- In soft soil, can leave impression of dew claw behind print (3)



! CHITAL DEER (AXIS AXIS)

DISTRIBUTION

There are wild populations of Chital Deer in Queensland near Charters Towers, with other smaller isolated population in NSW. Range and densities are increasing from isolated pockets and deliberate release for hunting, which is causing significant impacts on farming communities already under stress.

Chital Deer are likely to arrive from the north and west of our region.

HABITAT & HERDING

- Chital deer are herbivores that graze on a variety of grasses, fruit and leaves
- They can form herds of more than 100
- They don't have a defined breeding season, and they can produce up to three offspring in two years
- They will eat their shed antlers if their diet is lacking vitamins and minerals
- Females separate from the herd during birthing and rearing of their young

! FALLOW DEER (DAMA DAMA)

DISTRIBUTION

Fallow deer are the most widespread and established feral deer species in Australia. They are likely to arrive in the Northern Rivers from the north and west of our region.

HABITAT & HERDING

- Fallow deer inhabit semi-open scrubland and graze on pasture that is close to cover
- Fallow deer are a herd deer
- They breed during April and May
- Fawns are born in December
- In rut, or breeding season, the buck makes an unmistakable croak, like a grunting pig
- The calls vary from high pitched bleating to deep grunts



Identifying deer scat (poo) can also help us monitor feral deer presence and numbers in The Northern Rivers



FERAL DEER ID POCKET GUIDE

Help us prevent feral deer getting out of control in the Northern Rivers. Before it's too late. Report all deer sightings **as soon as possible**.

Report sightings using the FeralScan Pest Mapping App, or go to feralscan.org.au/deerscan.

If you can, include a photograph of the deer, the area and/or the scat (poo).

For more information go to:
FeralDeerAlert.com.au

