



# Living with Deer in Harrietville

**Community Deer Management Report and Actions 2017**

ABN: 11 886 131 651  
Michelle Kent  
16 Mountbatten Ave  
Bright, 3741  
0417 256 728  
[Enviro.plan@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:Enviro.plan@yahoo.co.nz)

## Table of Contents

1.	Project description.....	3
1.1.	Background.....	3
1.2.	Project location.....	3
1.3.	Scope.....	3
1.4.	Timeline.....	4
1.5.	Governance.....	4
2.	Methods.....	5
3.	What we have learned.....	6
3.1.	Survey results.....	6
3.2.	Community event – <i>Living with Deer</i> in Harrietville.....	6
3.3.	Community engagement and deer management in the United States.....	7
3.4.	Discussion sessions outputs in Harrietville.....	9
3.5.	Deer management trials in Australia.....	10
4.	Harrietville <i>Living with Deer</i> .....	11
5.	Strategic logic.....	11
6.	Next steps.....	12
	Appendix One – References.....	14
	Appendix Two - Survey Results.....	15
	Appendix Three – Community Action Plan.....	19

Version History:		
Version	Date	Comments
1.0	31 October 2017	
2.0	May 2018	Changes made as project has evolved.
3.0	June 2018	Changes made after discussion with ET, JA and DB
4.0	August 2018	Changes made incorporating comments from BE

# 1. Project description

The *Living with Deer* Project aimed to empower the Harrietville community to manage deer and their impacts at the public/private land interface. The project was developed in collaboration with the Harrietville community through the Harrietville Community Forum, and with the guidance of a Working Group comprising representatives from Parks Victoria, the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and the Harrietville Community Forum. Michelle Kent facilitated the initial stages of the project.

## 1.1. Background

A significant increase in the deer population has been observed in the Alpine National Park and adjacent State Forest over the past decade together with observed increases in the impacts of deer on significant environmental assets. Deer impact on road safety, primary industries, properties, gardens and infrastructure, native forests and trees, and water quality. In addition deer bring hunters and many communities are grappling with the impact of irresponsible and illegal shooting in their communities. Community concerns about these impacts have increased significantly as populations have grown, even over the year-long duration of the *Living with Deer* project.

This project has worked with the Harrietville community to develop a set of actions that will contribute to the management of deer and their impacts at the public/private land interface. The process undertaken with the Harrietville community will be used to develop a framework that will be able to be used to guide other communities with similar issues. Agencies recognise that impacts of deer will not be removed in the short-term, and could increase as the deer population grows.

## 1.2. Project location

Harrietville is a small town of under two hundred households<sup>1</sup> located along the floor of a narrow valley surrounded by the Alpine National Park and by State Forest. The town runs along the Ovens River in North East Victoria. Town residents are a mix of retirees and families, mainly engaged in the tourism industry or employed in the nearby town of Bright. Just over half are in the labour force and of those, 25% are engaged in the accommodation industry. Some residents run businesses from home and there is a small number of small-scale agricultural producers adjacent to the town boundary. There is a high number of absentee landowners. A number of properties in Harrietville are landscaped or bush life-style blocks and most residents would say that the quiet rural and natural amenity of the town is a key reason as to why they live there.

## 1.3. Scope

*Living with Deer* was tightly focussed on one issue, deer and their impacts on the semi-urban community of Harrietville, but had the capacity to explore a broad range of solutions. The Working Group decided early in the project that discussion would not be limited, but that contentious and fraught topics such as the constraints of the legal framework and culling of deer populations could take place within a respectful and honest space in an informed and logical manner, acknowledging the information that is unknown. The project sought to gather as much information as possible on deer, in particular Samba Deer, deer impacts in Harrietville, tested management approaches, and community-led deer management to inform the project approach and the potential actions discussed. There are, however, a number of areas in which knowledge is lacking and the recommended actions focus on gathering the decision-making information required.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: ABS 2016 Census indicates a population in Harrietville of 338 people with a median age of 49 located in 124 occupied dwellings. There are a further 94 non-occupied dwellings. The ABS 2016 census boundary includes a broader area than that defined by this project. The population and number of households affected by this project would therefore be slightly smaller than those indicated by ABS 2016 Census statistics.

## 1.4. Timeline



## 1.5. Governance

The Project is owned and funded by Parks Victoria. It is overseen by a Project Manager and facilitated by an external consultant. Major decisions are made by a Project Working Group.

Project Manager: Elaine Thomas

External Consultant: Michelle Kent - EnviroPlan

Project Working Group:

- Dan Brown – Parks Victoria (Chair)
- Julien Atherstone – Parks Victoria
- Elaine Thomas – Parks Victoria
- Lachlan Campbell - NECMA
- David Pasztaleniec – DELWP
- Jarrod Hayes – DELWP
- John Atkins – HCF
- Brian Eddy – HCF

## 2. Methods

*Living with Deer* is primarily an engagement process to enable community in Harrietville to determine activities that might alleviate some of the impacts of deer on the community. The project began with the following goals:

1. To build the knowledge and capacity of the Harrietville community to manage deer and their impacts in and around the community.
2. To have a whole of community approach where agencies and community are working together.
3. To identify actions that can be implemented to manage deer impacts in and around Harrietville and to monitor and evaluate progress.
4. To develop a framework using learnings from this project that guides other communities to manage deer and their impacts at the public/private land interface.

*Living with Deer* began by gathering information about deer, particularly Samba deer, and about the impacts of deer on Harrietville. Key activities included a community survey, a discussion between the Working Group and experts on community deer management in the United States, and a community evening on a number of topics related to deer ecology and behaviour, deer impacts, potential solutions, and the legal framework.

Following the information collection activities, a series of discussion sessions were held during July and August to talk with interested residents about some of the most significant issues identified by the survey and community evening and to brainstorm and discuss potential solutions. The topics discussed were:

- Road safety
- Population management and hunting
- Advocacy and community engagement with government
- Monitoring and data collection
- Impacts on properties

An Action Statement outlining actions to be undertaken was drafted after discussion sessions and was refined in consultation with the Harrietville residents who had participated in discussion sessions. This report complements the Action Statement by providing the details that explains the logic of the actions identified. The Action Statement is included in Appendix 4.

### 3. What we have learned

This section will explore the key information that has been highlighted as a part of the project process. It will present key learnings from the community information night on deer, the discussion with United States-based experts in community engagement in deer management, and important deer management trials that have taken place in Australia. This information has been critical to informing the development of the project and the potential actions that have been discussed.

#### 3.1. Survey results

Forty three people responded to the Deer in Harrietville Survey, representing 15% of the adult population in Harrietville. As participation in the survey was voluntary and required people to actively access the survey via an online web link or by picking up a hardcopy in a local business, it is likely that those who filled in the survey represent the people who are most concerned about the impact of deer and those who are most strongly opposed to deer management. Detailed survey results are presented in Appendix 2.

The survey revealed that deer are commonly seen by residents in Harrietville on a daily basis. Respondents confirmed that deer are more prevalent in winter, but that numbers are increasing in summer as well, and that they are most commonly seen at dawn, dusk and at night. Samba Deer individuals are seen daily, and there are one, two, or three herds of Red Deer on the north side of the township that commonly graze in the large land holdings between Harrietville and Smoko. Most respondents believe the deer population has significantly increased over the last five years.

Most respondents reported impacts from deer. The most prevalent of these were on road safety, private gardens, and on the environment around Harrietville in State Forest and National Park. Respondents did not have a lot of ideas about how to address these impacts other than shooting the deer, increasing hunting, and erecting fences.

Four respondents were actively opposed to wide-scale population management. Two of these were because they wanted to maintain a viable hunting population.

#### 3.2. Community event – *Living with Deer in Harrietville*

On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July approximately 25 people braved the cold to attend the *Living with Deer* in Harrietville community evening to hear from a range of speakers what is known, and not known, about deer. Speakers included representatives from the Game Management Authority, VicRoads, Parks Victoria, Australian Deer Association, and deer ecology expert Dr Dave Forsyth.

Some of the key points made in the information session included:

- Twenty-six deer species were introduced into Australia in the late 1800s as game animals. Only four of these survive in Victoria today and of these two occur in and around Harrietville. The majority of deer are Sambar Deer but there is also a small population of Red Deer.
- In Victoria over the past decade, the number of Sambar Deer has increased significantly and this trend shows no sign of levelling off. There are likely more than one million Sambar Deer in Victoria.
- Sambar Deer are generally solitary animals that prefer dense bush, whilst Red Deer are herding animals that prefer to stay close to open grazing areas.
- Deer are classified as protected wildlife under the Wildlife Act which means they may not be destroyed without authorisation. Private landowners experiencing problems with deer are authorised to control them.
- Deer are also classified as a game species and this means that a hunter requires a game licence to hunt deer.

- The number of hunters with game licences in Victoria, and the number of deer they take, has been increasing over the past few years. In 2016, 34,000 licenced deer hunters are estimated to have taken 90,000 deer.
- There are several ways to manage the impacts of deer including fencing, planting species that deer don't like to eat, using chemical, visual and/or audible repellents and planned and targeted ground shooting. Many people in Harrietville have started to implement these actions.
- All actions taken to manage the impacts of deer, other than fencing, will need to be ongoing.
- The Harrietville community are not the only community experiencing issues with deer. We can learn from others what works and what doesn't and try it here.

The number of attendees was less than anticipated for reasons unknown. Ideally the weather would have been better, and perhaps planning the session for outside of the ski season would have drawn a bigger crowd. In the future it may also be worthwhile combining an information session with another community event that is likely to be well supported by the community.

### **3.3. Community engagement and deer management in the United States**

In June 2017 the project Working Group met over skype with Dr Dan Decker and Dr Paul Curtis from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Dr Decker and Dr Curtis have worked with communities and deer impacts for a number of years and are experts in the space where deer impacts and management, and communities intersect.

The following key points were made during the discussion:

- There is a cycle to community response with different stages of evolution. Some parts of the community go faster than other parts. Trying to bring balance is good as it takes a community-wide response to leverage action.
- Community conversations are best begun in an open manner. If people then agree there is an issue then they can recruit others to be involved, similar to a taskforce.
- When thinking about deer and communities, deer numbers are much less important than deer impacts. It is not necessarily the case that an increase in deer numbers results in a proportional increase in impact. Two or three deer in the wrong location can have a big impact. Small increases in deer numbers on roads has been known to increase accidents by much greater multiples.<sup>2</sup> It can be difficult and expensive to monitor deer numbers and relatively easier to monitor deer impacts.
- Working with communities and deer is a long-term process that requires a range of methods to engage individuals. Understanding of stakeholders within the community and outside the community is critical.

This discussion helped the Working Group to understand the need for longevity for the *Living with Deer* Project, for ensuring information is easily accessible, and for the need for a variety of engagement approaches. Figure 1 illustrates the issue evolution model Dr Decker and Dr Curtis have found to be common to conflicts between communities and wildlife.

---

<sup>2</sup> Dr Brent J. Danielson and Dr Michael W. Hubbard (1998) A LITERATURE REVIEW FOR ASSESSING THE STATUS OF CURRENT METHODS OF REDUCING DEER-VEHICLE COLLISIONS, Taskforce on Animal Vehicle Collisions, Iowa Department of Transportation and Iowa Department of Natural Resources, p3

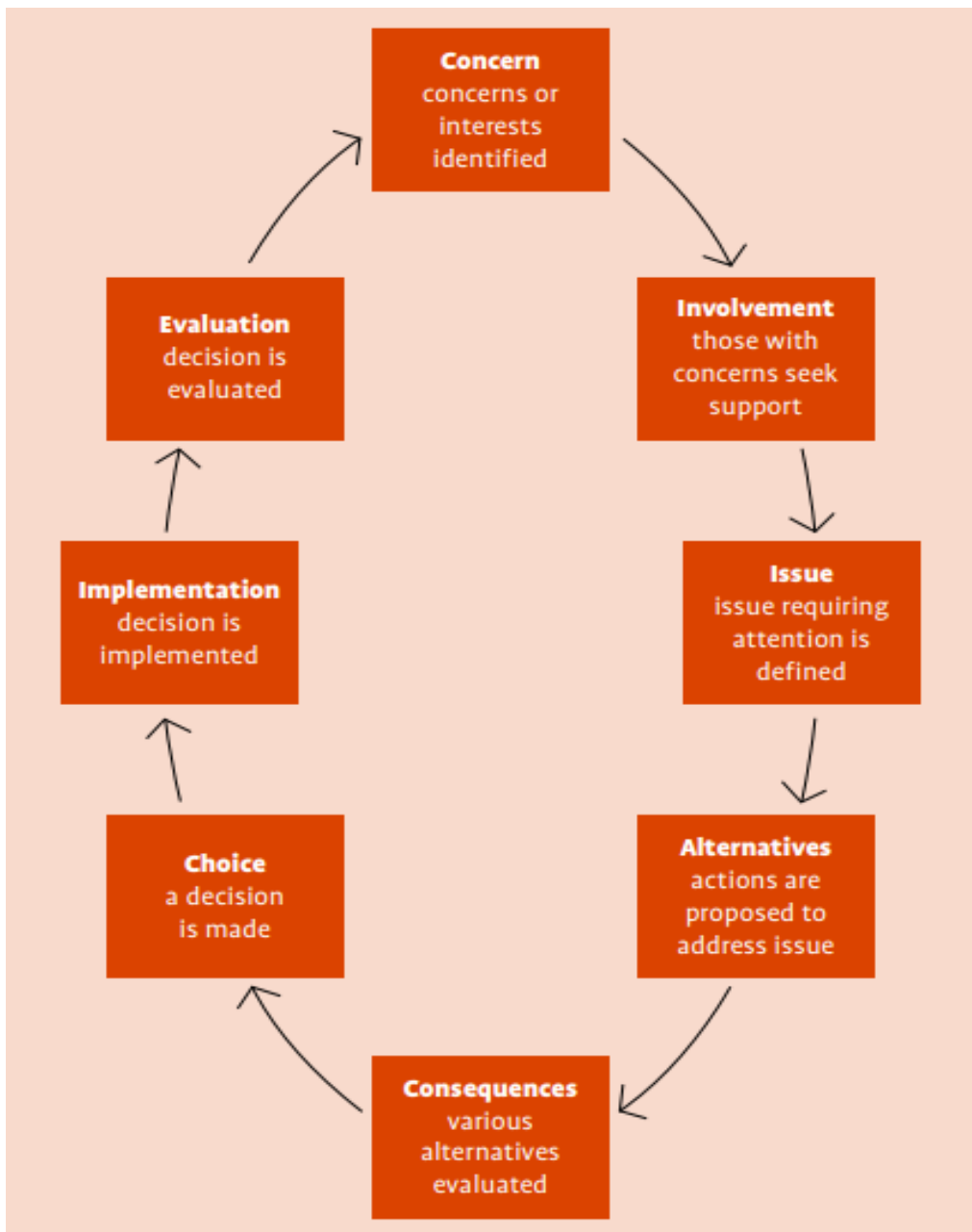


Figure 1: Hahn (1990) issue evolution model (in Decker et. al. 2002 p20)



### 3.4. Discussion sessions outputs in Harrietteville

After the community event Harrietteville residents were asked to contribute to further discussions around what to do to reduce impacts of deer in Harrietteville. The following topics were discussed in separate discussion sessions with small groups of interested community members:

#### *Road safety*

At the time of the discussion sessions Brian Eddy and VicRoads had already been communicating about broad road safety issues in Harrietteville and between Harrietteville and Bright. Deer pose a particularly significant safety issue on the road between Harrietteville and Bright in locations where the speed limit is 80km/hr or above, forested vegetation abuts the road, and the road is windy obscuring vision. These parameters occur at Frosty Corner and at Mill Bend between Harrietteville and Bright.

Discussion on road safety tackled three areas: decreasing risk by reducing speed at the two identified significant areas; collecting data to inform future management via a reporting system for vehicle accidents and near misses involving deer; and decreasing risk by excluding deer from Frosty Corner via fencing.

During discussions VicRoads committed to:

- Install signage advising a reduced night time speed limit and warning motorists of the presence of deer.
- Install reflectors as a trial to assess benefit.

#### *Impacts on town amenity, tourism and gardens*

Amenity values, particularly for residential gardens, was one of the most significant impact areas of deer in Harrietteville. This discussion session explored fencing options, repellents, and garden design and layout to examine what could be done to lessen impacts of deer on gardens and to exclude deer from properties where they are having an impact on livelihoods.

As a result of these discussions Parks Victoria committed to collating information on garden plants less palatable to deer, on fencing options, and on repellent options, and to create information sheets accessible to the community.

#### *Population management and hunting*

This discussion session focused on both controlled shooting, and the role that hunters play in reducing the deer population and in reducing the impact of illegal shooting on the community. Key points from this discussion session are:

- The town is not ready for a controlled shooting program to be undertaken around the boundary of the town. More information is needed on whether or not a meaningful controlled shooting program could be undertaken around Harrietteville, given the steep, thickly forested surrounds of the town, before the development of a shooting program would be pursued. Currently there would be a reasonable amount of opposition to a controlled shooting program around the perimeter of the town and there would need to be significant community engagement to educate people on what a controlled shooting program would look like and what it would mean for deer impacts.
- Hunters can play a role in reducing the population of deer in specific, defined locations, if the level of hunting in the area is frequent throughout the year. Allowing hunters access to farms or organising hunters to focus on certain areas of significance, and visiting those locations often, can alleviate population pressure in those locations. There may be interest in the town in organising hunters or

pursuing hunting tourism opportunities in the future and if this is coordinated well it could contribute to an 'asset protection' approach.

- The reputation of hunters among some residents in Harrietville is very negative because of the actions of a few illegal and irresponsible shooters that give the whole hunting community a bad name. Some education for residents around the culture and rules followed by responsible hunters, the licenses and training they have and the connection to food and social networks that hunting affords them would be worthwhile.

There is some interest among local hunters in Harrietville in pursuing opportunities to educate residents on what it means to be a responsible hunter.

#### *Environmental impacts and monitoring deer numbers and damage*

Discussion on environmental impacts and on monitoring took place together because the two issues are closely related. Residents interested in protecting the local environment felt that there is very little they can do to do so, other than monitor the damage and use the data collected to advocate to Government agencies for sustained population control for environmental protection.

Residents would like to see a comprehensive monitoring program put in place that gathers data on deer numbers, distribution of deer in the local landscape, river turbidity, and level of environmental damage. The later would require fenced exclusion zones to compare vegetation quality in local environments with and without deer. It was decided that the Harrietville Community Forum and agencies would seek out funding opportunities to develop a monitoring program for deer around Harrietville.

#### *Broader Government policy*

The *Living with Deer* in Harrietville project was developed to enable the community to respond and adapt to deer in and around Harrietville. However during discussions it became clear that the community feel there is a significant role that government and land managers need to play in managing deer populations across the region. This discussion session resulted in agreement that the Harrietville Community Forum will advocate to government for further deer management programs across the region.

### **3.5. Deer management trials in Australia**

Whether or not to try targeted shooting of deer around the Harrietville community in order to reduce impacts is a question that, as yet, has no answer. Better understanding of a range of variables is needed before that decision can be made. In addition, whilst a number of people indicated in their survey response that population management is the only way to manage impacts, many others are more reserved in their support for shooting deer around the town. Any shooting program would need to be carefully planned using contract shooters for short periods of time, repeated at least annually, with significant community engagement prior to any management.

There are some case studies for targeted shooting programs in Australia, which have been conducted in a broad range of contexts and environments. Any deer control in Harrietville would require funding, or have a finance model in place to ensure it was able to be replicated frequently to sustain a lower population around the town.

## 4. Harrietville *Living with Deer*

After discussion sessions a Community Action Plan was developed that identified actions within the themes set by the discussion sessions. The Community Action Plan is presented in Appendix Three.

Residents in Harrietville are learning to live with deer. People are beginning to modify how and when they drive at night, some people are erecting fences, and some are making changes to their gardens to keep damage down.

As the community increasingly feels impacts from the growing deer population in the surrounding Alpine National Park and State Forest we expect that future action will evolve. For future development are deer population monitoring processes and, possibly, a shooting program if it is feasible and if the community decides that it is necessary. As deer numbers increase in the landscape it is likely that more people in the community will be seeking to limit the impact of deer and actively control their population.

## 5. Strategic logic

The Community Action Plan is based around two themes: Addressing the most significant impacts felt by the community; and improving our knowledge base to support future action.

### *Vision*

*Living with Deer* involves community and agencies working together to reduce negative impacts from deer on the Harrietville community.

### *Theme: Addressing impacts*

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Roads will be safer to travel on, particularly at night when deer are active and more difficult to see.</b>	VicRoads will install signage, reflectors, and an advised reduced night time speed limit.
<b>There is less of an impact on gardens and properties.</b>	Collate an information pack on garden plant, fencing, and repellent options.
<b>Residents understand the difference between illegal and irresponsible shooting and best-practice hunting, and how to report illegal activity.</b>	Present information on respectful hunting practices, and how to report illegal activity.
<b>A program is in place to monitor the impacts of deer on native vegetation and water quality.</b>	Seek funding and support to monitor the impacts of deer on the environment.

## Theme: Improving our knowledge base

Outcome	Action
<b>We have a better understanding of deer numbers, distribution, and impact on properties.</b>	Record deer sightings and impacts using the 'DeerScan' App.
	Map properties with significant impacts.
<b>There is greater alignment in understanding and in action on impacts of deer across communities and Government.</b>	Advocate to Government Agencies for legislative reform to incentivise deer management.
	Pass on information learned to Harrietville residents and seek feedback.
	Share information with other communities and create connections.

Actions identified will be implemented in 2018 by the Harrietville Community Forum, supported by agencies and members of the Harrietville community. It is envisaged that this strategic logic is dynamic and will be updated annually.

## 6. Next steps

One of the key learnings from this project is that the project is ongoing, is dynamic, and will evolve and change through time. The Working Group is committed to the ongoing nature of the project and will continue to meet periodically to discuss project progress and to identify future needs for the project as they emerge. They maintain a watching brief over implementation of actions and will likely re-survey the community in the future.

Deer numbers in Victoria, particularly Sambar deer are now increasing rapidly with no signs of slowing. With increasing populations over the next five years we can expect more impacts, more issues, and more people coming into the belief that deer numbers need active management.

The invasion curve in Figure 2 shows how invasive species grow in population – slowly at first then increasing considerably as populations become large enough to sustain high birth numbers, before slowing as they reach the limits of the ecosystem they live in. In Australia we know very little about the carrying capacity of the environment and what this means for the numbers of deer we can expect to see in the landscape in the future.

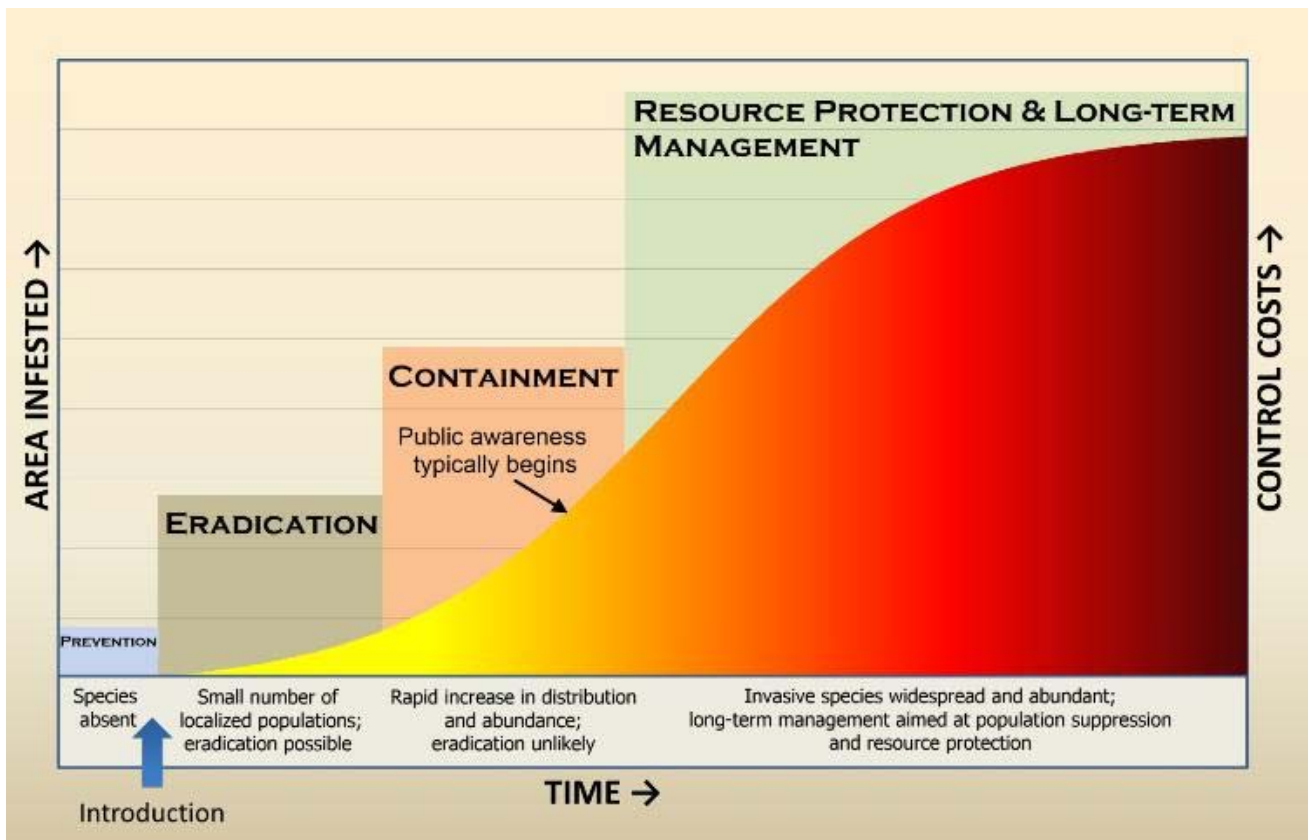


Figure 2: Invasion Curve (Adapted from DPI 2010 Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework by University of Florida)

### *Future funding opportunities*

The Harrietville Community Forum and Working Group members will continue to seek funding opportunities to implement further action in Harrietville. Monitoring of deer numbers and impacts is particularly important an avenue to better understand impacts of deer, particularly on local environmental values.

### *Opportunities to eradicate Red Deer*

Parks Victoria are exploring potential to eradicate the Red Deer population in Harrietville. Large herds of deer congregating on the north side of Harrietville are reportedly one or two herds of Red Deer. Red Deer thus represent a relatively small and discreet part of the overall deer population, however it is possible they carry a larger share of deer impacts in Harrietville due to their herding nature in open spaces. Loss of pasture, fencing damage, and presence of deer herds on the Great Alpine Road may be disproportionately due to Red Deer rather than Sambar Deer.

Further work is needed to determine the extent of the population of Red Deer and their impacts.

## Appendix One – References

- Davis N. E., Bennett A, Forsyth D. M., Bowman D. M. J. S., Lefroy E. C., Wood S. W., Woolnough A. P., West P., Hampton J. O., Johnson C. N. (2016). A systematic review of the impacts and management of introduced deer (family Cervidae) in Australia. *Wildlife Research* 43, 515-532.
- Decker, D. J., Lauber, T. B., and Siemer, W. F. (2002) *Human-Wildlife Conflict Management – A Practitioners Guide*. Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Research and Outreach Cooperative and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- Decker, D. J., Raik, D. B., and Siemer, W. F. (2004) *Community Based Deer Management – A Practitioners Guide*. Human Dimensions Research Unit, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- Forsyth, D. M., Stamation, K. Woodford, L. (2015). *Distributions of Sambar Deer, Rusa Deer and Sika Deer in Victoria*. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Unpublished Client Report for the Biosecurity Branch, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Heidelberg, Victoria.
- Game Management Authority (2017). Deer. <http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/deer> accessed 16 March 2018.
- International Association for Public Participation – Australasia (2016) <https://www.iap2.org.au/Home> accessed 31 March 2018.
- University of Florida (2015) *The Invasion Curve: A Tool for Understanding Invasive Species Management in South Florida*. [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LyraEDISServlet?command=getImageDetail&image\\_soid=FIGURE%201&document\\_soid=UW392&document\\_version=1](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LyraEDISServlet?command=getImageDetail&image_soid=FIGURE%201&document_soid=UW392&document_version=1) Accessed 2 April 2018.

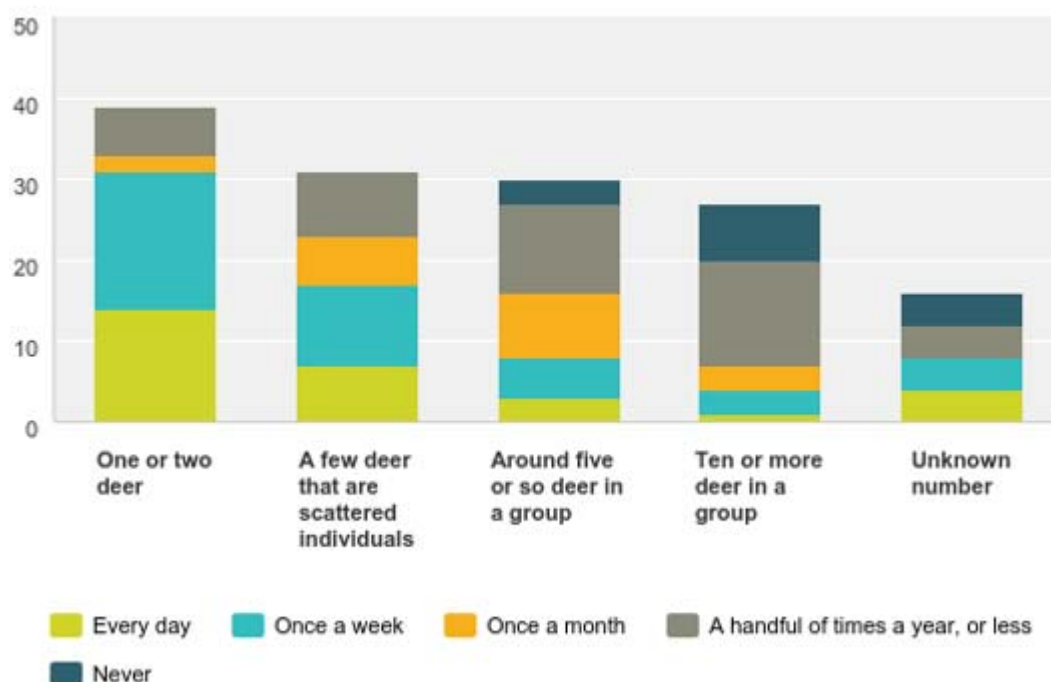
## Appendix Two - Survey Results

A survey of Harrietville residents on deer and deer impacts was conducted between April and June 2017.

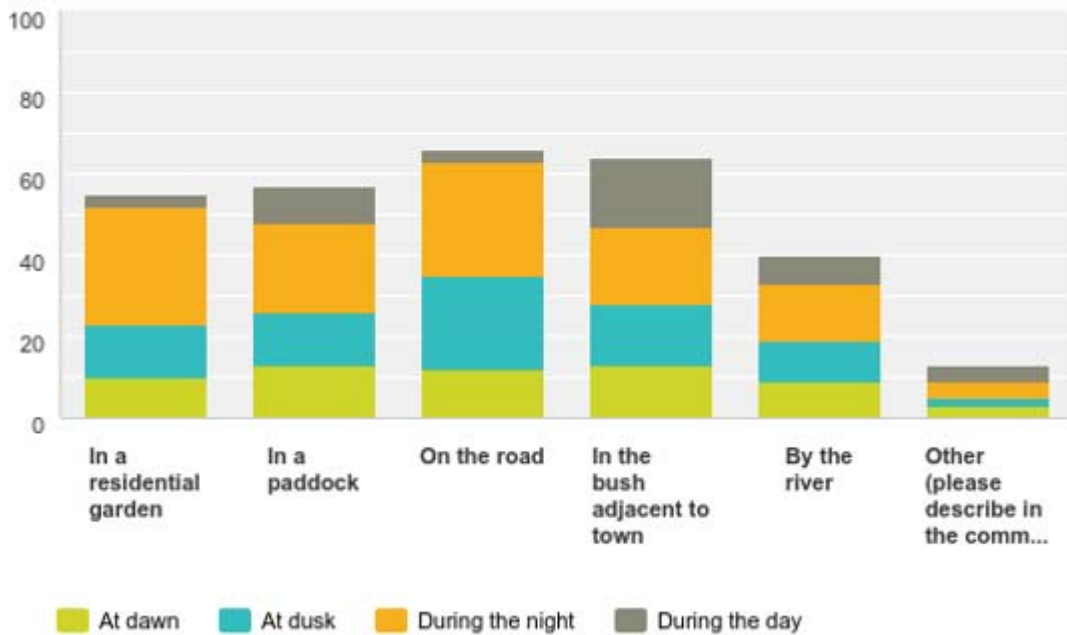
Residents were provided with a link to the online survey via email and via a number of Facebook prompts. Information posters and hardcopies of the survey were put in the pubs and in the General Store.

Forty three responses were received, representing 10% of the population in community. Data analysis yielded the following findings.

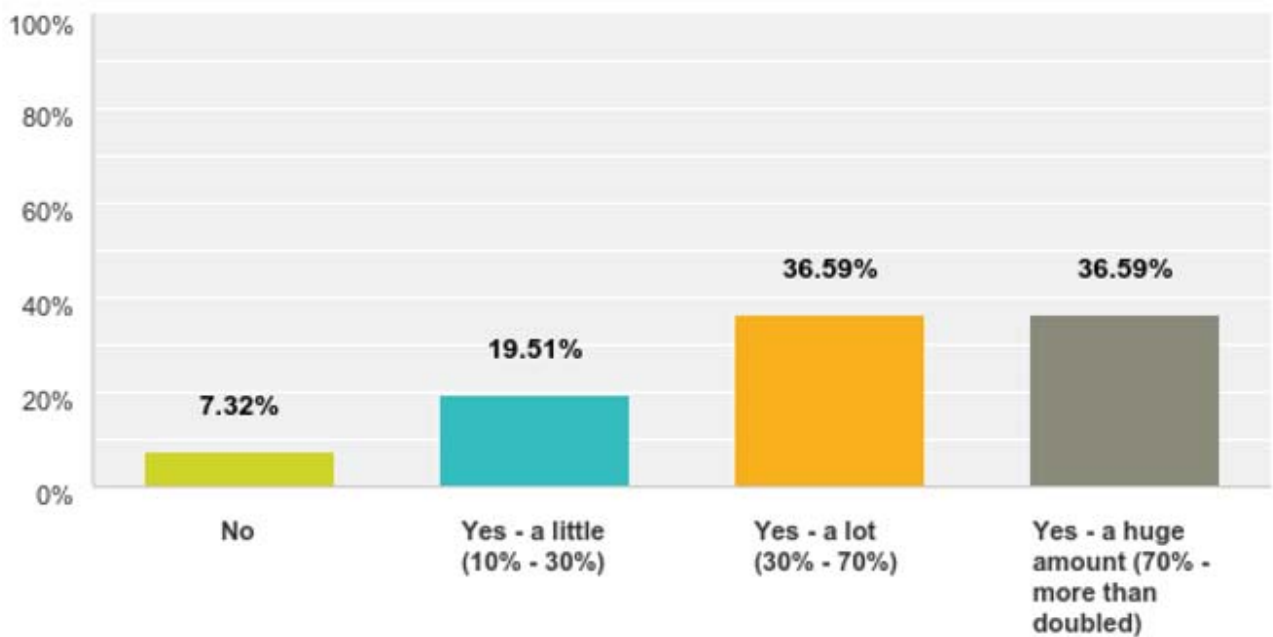
1. Deer are commonly seen daily or weekly around the town as individuals. Groups of deer are less common, although comments indicate that there are one – three herds of Red Deer on the north side of Harrietville. The following graph outlines how often respondents see or hear signs of deer around Harrietville.



2. Dawn, dusk and night are the most common times to see deer. They are commonly found in gardens, paddocks, near the road or in bush around the town. The following graph outlines where deer were seen and the time of day they were seen there.

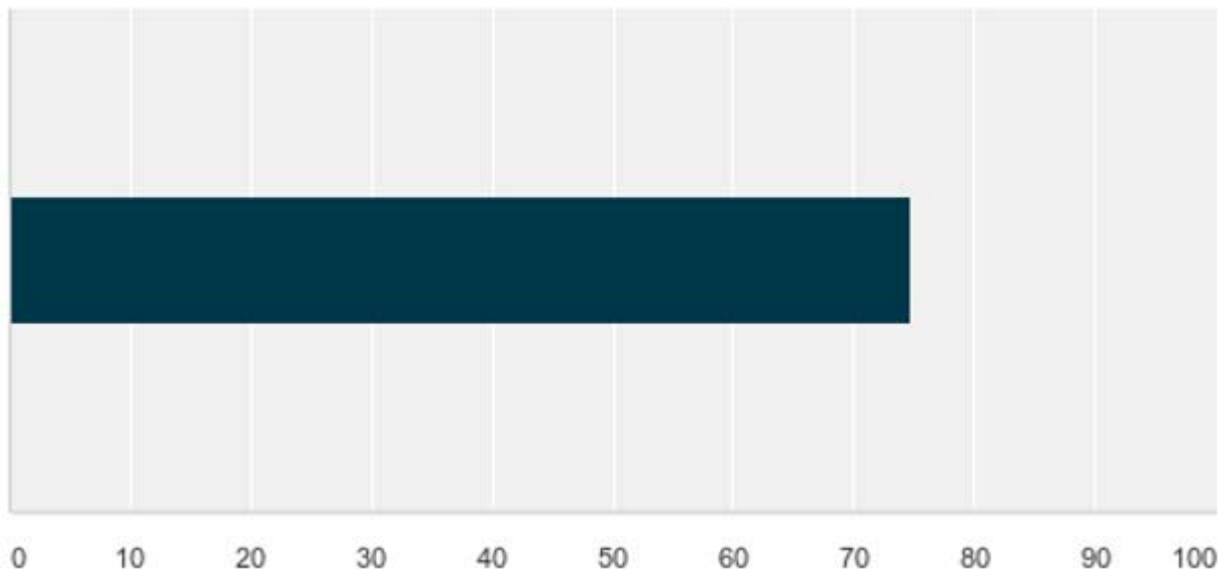


3. Deer numbers have increased, with most respondents saying deer numbers have increased by 30% or more, as outlined in the graph below.



4. Most people dislike seeing deer due to the impacts they cause. But some people quite like the animal and enjoy seeing it. The following graph shows the average rating of respondents when they were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 100 how much they loved or hated seeing deer around.

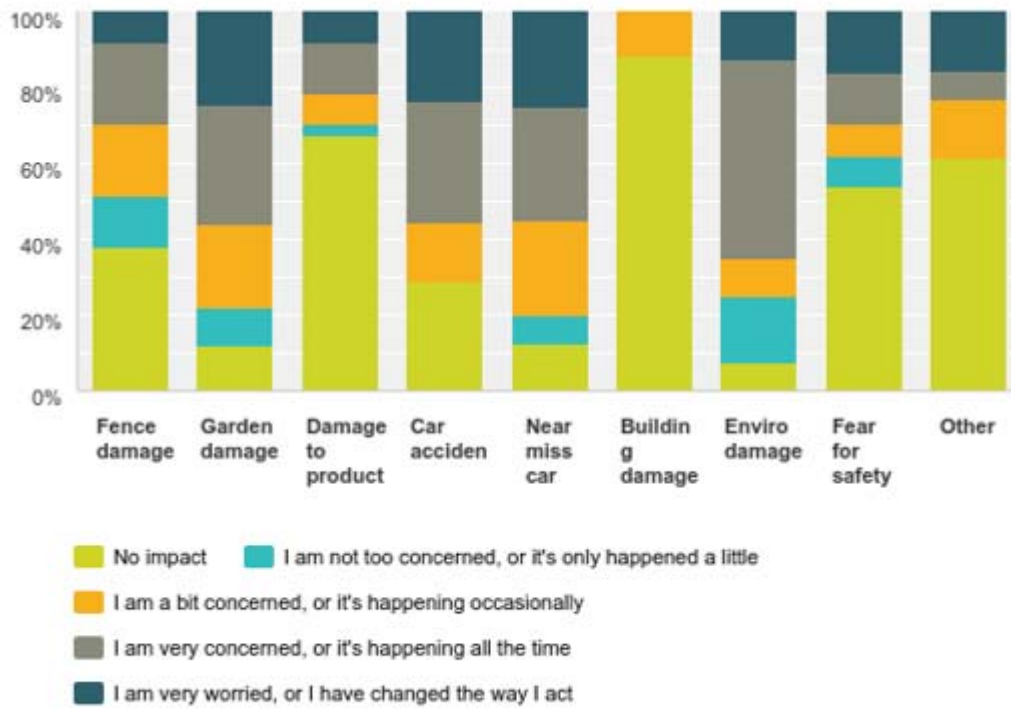




5. Survey respondents were asked why they do or don't like deer. Most people indicated they don't like deer because of damage to their garden, environmental damage, and decreased road safety. People who like deer generally like them to hunt, or just like seeing them around. The following graph shows the breakdown of reasons people gave as to why they do or don't like deer.

<b>Damage our garden</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		46.34%	19
<b>Economic benefits hunting</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		4.88%	2
<b>I like deer</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		12.20%	5
<b>Impact on environment</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		43.90%	18
<b>Like hunting or eating</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		9.76%	4
<b>Problem hunters</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		4.88%	2
<b>Road safety</b> <a href="#">View all</a> • <a href="#">Edit</a> • <a href="#">Delete</a>		51.22%	21

6. Respondents were asked a multiple choice question about whether they have experienced specific impacts of deer. Garden damage, road risks, and environmental damage were found to be causing the most concern. This is depicted in the following graph, where blue and grey colours indicate the highest levels of concern.



7. When asked about ideas for managing impacts of deer, most respondents supported direct population management through culling or hunting.

<b>Cull</b> View all • Edit • Delete		41.38%	12
<b>Encourage hunting</b> View all • Edit • Delete		20.69%	6
<b>Fence</b> View all • Edit • Delete		17.24%	5
<b>Legislative change</b> View all • Edit • Delete		6.90%	2
<b>No ideas</b> View all • Edit • Delete		3.45%	1
<b>Road deterrents</b> View all • Edit • Delete		3.45%	1

## Appendix Three – Community Action Plan

# 'Living with Deer' – community and agencies working together

## Why

### Our vision

'Living with Deer' involves community and agencies working together to reduce negative impacts from deer on the Harrietville community.

### How we got here ...

The number of deer in and around Harrietville has increased significantly over the past ten years and many people are concerned about the impacts on road safety, on their properties, and on the local environment.

'Living with Deer' was developed by the Harrietville Community Forum, Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and the North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA).

## What we'll do

These actions will be delivered in 2018 by the Harrietville Community Forum, supported by the agencies and members of the Harrietville community.

<h3>Address impacts -</h3>	<b>on road safety*</b>	<b>on properties</b>	<b>of illegal activity</b>	<b>on the environment</b>
	VicRoads will install signage, reflectors, and an advised reduced night time speed limit.	Collate an information pack on garden plant, fencing, and repellent options.	Present information on respectful hunting practices, and how to report illegal activity.	Seek funding and support to monitor the impacts of deer on the environment.
<h3>Improve what we know</h3>	<b>about deer numbers, distribution, and impact on properties</b>		<h3>Engage &amp; advocate</h3>	<b>with key groups</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record deer sightings and impacts using the 'DeerScan' App.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government and agencies: Advocate for legislative reform to incentivise deer management.</li> <li>Harrietville residents:</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Map properties with significant impacts.</li> </ul>		Pass on information learned and seek feedback.		

## How to get involved

So far John Atkins, Brian Eddy, John Gertsakis, Sharna Johnson, Eli Hoy and Cheryl Long have committed to working on the actions identified here.

**Want to get involved?** Contact the Harrietville Community Forum to learn how you can participate or share your ideas.

## What about the future

### Deer numbers are expected to grow...

In the future we'll assess the need for integrated management tools. These might include exclusion fencing and targeted, controlled shooting to lower population pressure around the town. We'll also seek funding to monitor impacts of deer on the environment.

\* Part of a broader road safety initiative.



## Review & adapt

### These actions are just the beginning...

*Living with Deer* is a long-term shared approach to managing impacts from deer on Harrietville. This is a living document that will be updated annually.

