



Wild Game Resources Australia
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TFGA Submission: Wildlife Trade Operation Proposal – Exporting Wallaby from Tasmania

The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) is the leading representative body for Tasmanian primary producers. TFGA members are responsible for generating approximately 80% of the value created by the Tasmanian agricultural sector.

Agriculture is one of the key pillars of the economy and, with the current level of support from the government, are well positioned to further capitalise on the stature of Tasmanian agriculture.

The TFGA appreciates the opportunity to make comment on the Wildlife Trade Operation Proposal regarding exporting of wallaby from Tasmania.

The TFGA consulted with TFGA members to ensure all points of view were considered and meaningful information was gathered to secure good representation for this submission. Members were generally in favour of exporting wallaby as the population has grown substantially over the last 10 years, as outlined in the *DPIPWE Regional Density Index results 2009-2019*.

Our members had a broad range of comments and questions about this topic, and it was thought that it is best to detail the members comments below to give you a clear perspective of each point.

TFGA Member Feedback

- Given the damage Rufus and Bennett's wallaby cause new trees and pastures, we will support exporting of wallaby;
- I am in favour of exporting wallaby meat;
- We support a proposal that – maintains a sustainable population of native fauna, has the highest practical animal welfare standards, has strong meat quality controls for consumers, provides new revenue, or subsidises current control costs for primary producers (including plantation forestry) and makes use of an otherwise wasted natural resource.
- As farmers running mixed grazing enterprises on Flinders Island and in the West Tamar, we have a constant battle managing wildlife numbers. We would whole-heartedly support the export of wallaby products from Tasmania, as it is a terrible waste to see this (delicious!) product go to waste. Provided that suitable mechanisms are in place to ensure that harvesters are skilled shooters and have appropriate, hygienic handling methods, and that wallaby numbers are monitored to ensure a sustainable, healthy population remains in our

forests, we would love to see this proposal go ahead. PS – please can they do the same with deer.

- With the summarised proposal and provided that any threats to branding have been covered, from the King Island numbers being culled, on the surface I am supportive of the concept.
- This looks like a great development. Terrific that a high percentage of the animal is being used, (Meat and Hide). My only concern is that we put in place appropriate measures for euthanising pouch young. The recent campaign that the USA market has applied to the Kangaroo harvesting for leather would be good to avoid.

Whilst most members were happy with this proposal, there was one member who raised concerns as they also hold a Wildlife Trade Operation (WTO) for exporting Wallaby. They are currently exporting to several countries and their business is growing substantially. With this in mind, the concern is that a condition of a WTO to export wallaby from Tasmania is that it is a small-scale operation. If both businesses start exporting wallaby, then this may mean that up to 300,000 wallabies could be exported per annum plus the other unharvested 70% that are culled through crop protection, which may exceed current population thresholds.

After TFGA reviewed the Wildlife Trade Operation Proposal and obtained feedback from its members, there are still some outstanding questions that we wish to clarify:

- What economic benefit will Tasmania receive from exporting wallaby?
- Will professional shooters be engaged from within Tasmania?
- Will you harvest wallaby shot by landholders?
- How do you plan on engaging private landholders to allow professional shooters onto their land to harvest wallaby?
- Will landowners be compensated for access to their private land?
- Have you engaged with other wallaby exporters in Tasmania to mitigate the risk of breaching harvest trigger points? If not, why?
- Have you engaged with DPIPW – Game Management Services regarding this proposal and do they support it?
- How will you manage on farm biosecurity?
- How will you manage animal welfare practices including euthanising pouch young?
- What strategies do you have in place to protect current Tasmanian branding?
- How will the wallaby meat, skin and fur be marketed? Tasmanian branding?

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



John McKew
Chief Executive Officer
4 May 2021