



# Committee **COMMUNIQUE**

## Wildlife Policing and Firearms Committee

Held on 21 March 2024

The Committee discussed:

1. The Chair (Alastair) provided an update on captive bolt devices with recent developments, after detailed discussions with Firearms Services, now allowing ammunition to be sold to people with an exemption to possess and use captive bolt devices.
2. Nathan Calman introduced himself as the new CEO of TasFarmers and highlighted the recent work of TasFarmers on their election package which included policy questions relating to game fencing and a permit system for sound suppressors.
3. The process to apply for, or renew a firearms licence is under review with a more complex application form expected.
4. The blanket exemption for Antique (pre-1900 firearms) was cancelled on 18 January 2024. Owners now must apply for an individual exemption and register the firearms. Both major parties have since announced that if they win government, they will only require antiques to be registered.
5. TasFarmers made a recent submission to the 2023 Tasmanian Wild Fallow Deer Management Plan Annual Review and the committee awaits to hear the results of this review.
6. A brief update was given on the activities of the Tasmanian Game Council, but things could change if there is a change of government.
7. The committee was briefed on the SSAA farmer assist program. This program is designed to assist farmers with pest management issues through a confidential electronic portal system.
8. The Committee was briefed by Game Services Tasmania on the results of the 2019 aerial deer survey and discussed plans for the follow-up survey of similar nature predicted to occur in September 2024.

**Alastair Cameron**

Chair Wildlife, Policing and Firearms Committee