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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**By Andrew Hansen**

Firstly, on behalf of the deer farming industry, I would like to acknowledge the contribution Jim Moir has made during his tenure as president of the DIAA. Thank you Jim. I miss you already.

You may remember that in 2007 Susan Ley, parliamentary Secretary, agreed to a three year reduction in the levy rate on venison, velvet and live deer exports. The aim of this reduction was to reduce the financial burden on deer farmers. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 the levy rate reverted back to their original amounts.

During 2008-09, the DIAA received RIRDC funding to establish a data base of all deer farmers. Deer farmers, whether DIAA members or not, were asked if they wished to be involved in any decision-making regarding levy changes. Ninety four farmers said yes. Letters were sent to the 94 farmers, listing options for changes in the levy structure and asking for their preferences.

As a result of this questionnaire, I have written to Senator Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry requesting the following:

- ❖ The deer slaughter levy be reduced from 10.5 cents/kg to 8.0 cents/kg.
- ❖ The velvet levy be reduced from 3.5% to 1% of sale value
- ❖ The deer velvet export charge be reduced from 3.5% to 1%
- ❖ The deer export charge remain at \$7.50 per animal
- ❖ The National Residue component, within the venison levy, be increased from 4 cents/kg to 6 cents/kg
- ❖ The RIRDC component be 2 cents/kg
- ❖ The Deer Slaughter Levy Act be amended so that a levy is imposed on the slaughter of all deer intended for human consumption, not only those slaughtered at an abattoir.

The purpose of this proposal is to reduce the financial burden on current deer farmers and to make the industry more attractive for new entrants.

RIRDC have also advised that a basic programme can be maintained with this proposed reduction in funding.

With the fall in deer slaughter numbers (from 602,945kg production in 2006-07 to an estimated 400,000kg in 2010-11), it is necessary to increase the residue testing component of the levy to ensure continued access to export markets. Without export markets, it is inevitable that prices for domestic venison would fall.

We await the Senator's response.

I hope your velveting is progressing well. Keep in mind those in the community opposed to velveting of deer and be sure to abide by the rules of the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme.

Note that the 2011 AGM will be held in Melbourne on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Andrew Hansen  
President DIAA