



August (Winter) 2011, 2 pages

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Andrew Hansen

Hopefully you are enjoying the relatively mild winter we are experiencing in the central tablelands of NSW - frosty mornings and sunny days with minimal hand feeding due to a good pasture cover after a favourable late summer and autumn. It is only July and stag green 902 has cast his buttons.

The good news is that Senator Joe Ludwig, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, has approved a reduction in the levies on velvet, venison and deer exports as requested in our May submission. The changes in the levy rates will become effective from the 1st October 2011.

From this date, the deer slaughter levy will be 8cents/kg hot standard carcass weight (HSCW) – currently 10.5c/kg. Of this 8cents, 4c/kg will be allocated to Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and 4c/g to the National Residue Survey (NRS).

The velvet levy will be reduced to 1% of sale value (from 3.5%) and the velvet export charge to 1% of declared value (currently 3.5%). This is a fee on export velvet that has not been previously purchased and levied. It is not double dipping.

The deer export charge will be reduced from \$7.50 to \$5.00 per head.

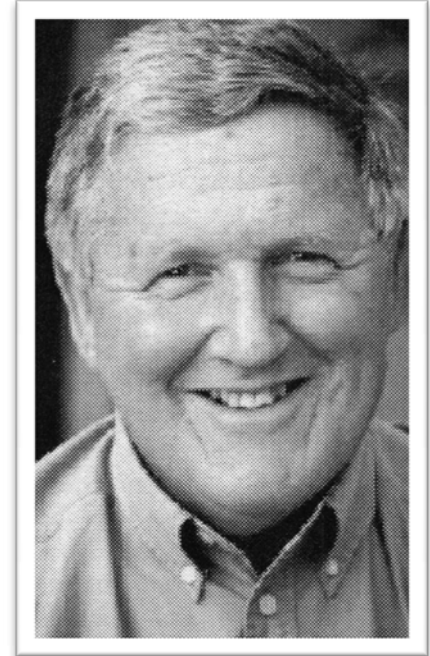
In our submission we requested that there be a re-apportioning of the deer slaughter levy to increase the component paid to the NRS to 6c/kg to allow continued funding of the deer NRS programme. RIRDC would then receive 2cents/kg. This change requires an amendment to the *Residue Survey (Excise) Levy Act 1998*. The DAFF will advise the DIAA on progress in this matter.

Despite this fall in revenue to RIRDC, the deer industry account contains sufficient funds to continue a basic Research and Development deer programme.

In July, Minister Joe Ludwig announced that Mr. Bill Farmer AO, is to undertake an independent livestock review to examine all aspects of the Australian live animal export chain from paddock to the point of slaughter. The DIAA directors responded to a request from Mr. Farmer to contribute to this review and gave our support for the stated commitment of the Australian Government to further the health and welfare of livestock in importing countries by the fostering of cooperation and goodwill, the sharing of Australian technical expertise and the provision of educational and training opportunities and support for infrastructure.

The document *Australian Standards for the export of Livestock Version 2.3* is now operational and the DIAA directors gave support for the content of this document where it related to the handling and welfare of deer. This document covers land transport to the point of embarkation and is not in complete agreement with the shortly to be released code *Land Transport of Livestock*. This was noted in our submission.

Considering the just concern shown by the Australian public over cattle slaughter practices in Indonesia, farmers contemplating deer export have a responsibility to examine the animal welfare standards that apply in the importing country and the likely fate of their deer.



The Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS) have informed the DIAA that there will be changes in the charges for AQIS services at export plants and a change in the service delivery model. On the 30th June 2011, a 40% government subsidy of AQIS fees ceased. The impact of these changes is being assessed. Information regarding these reforms can be found on the DAFF website- search for ECRP (Export Certification Reform Package).

For those of you who have read this far, I commend our website to you- [www.diaa.org](http://www.diaa.org). It is being continuously upgraded and is a source of a wealth of knowledge and information - especially for those contemplating entering the deer industry. Feedback to our secretary Marika is encouraged.

Domestic and overseas demand for venison is strong, despite the strong Australian dollar, and prices to the grower remain firm. The processing industry is constrained by low slaughter numbers. So please get out there and build up our national herd.

Andrew Hansen  
President DIAA