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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jim Moir

Thanks very much to those that returned the voting sheets for constitutional change, which has now been approved. However, if you have not completed and sent the survey returns, please do so as we need to demonstrate to Government that we have canvassed widely for any levy revisions and that you're counted in any future changes. If you want to have a say in any levy revisions then return the form ASAP. If you do not like any of the questions then leave them blank **but get your form in the system.**

At the April AGM, RIRDC formally advised us that they would no longer provide any core funding for the deer program. This funding, in the past, was roughly equal to their charges for running the program. We have had discussions with RIRDC regarding the operating cost of the program. With reducing the size of the advisory committee and some other in-house reductions, we have been able to halve previous costs for the next financial year estimates.

If you ever wanted any proof that the industry is contracting, then the following data from the Levies department should confirm your doubts.

The figures in the table below outline the Australian Deer Industry's production in the last financial year. Roughly speaking both venison and velvet are half our normal highs of a few years ago.

Let's hope that with the reduced animals available for both venison and velvet the supply side can meet the future demands.

Wishing you a favorable season,

Jim

Animals Exported	503
Total venison hot carcass weight in kg	543,459
Number of animals to slaughter	14,668
Total domestic and export velvet in kg	11,629