



February (Summer) 2009, 1page

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jim Moir

In the last magazine, we were worried about the financial crisis but the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods have put that into perspective. I am sure that I speak for all deer farmers in offering condolences to all those affected by these national disasters. As I write this, the bushfire death toll stands at 210 in Victoria. Luckily I have not heard of any deer farming deaths or major injuries, thank goodness, but there have been losses of stock, fencing, etc. When the affected farmers can get back on their properties, we can get a better picture of the damages.

I have just received the latest information from the Levies Management Unit through to end Jan 2009.

- The venison tally stands 342,671kg versus 418,391kg for the corresponding 2008 period, equating to an approximate 18% reduction
- The velvet tally is 5,217kg versus 9,041kg for the 2008 period equating to an approximate 42% reduction

It is interesting to see the percentage drops for velvet versus venison. I hope that it is just late reporting as I find it hard to believe that we have lost that many stags.

Next month I will be meeting with AQIS as they have advised that the Government has decreed that all of their services shall be full cost recovery. How this will impact on our industry at present is unknown, more information in the next magazine.

There will also be a meeting with RIRDC in March to look at the New Industries Program. As you know we are presently reviewing all our options for the RIRDC program and RIRDC will present an options paper at the Orange AGM. One of the options we have discussed with RIRDC is moving from the Established Industries program to the New Industries program. We hope to clarify this option at this meeting.

I hope that that we we you in Orange as there will be some major decisions for the industry's future to be decided and formalised.

On a sad note, the DIAA mourns the passing of Dr Paul Presidente who was a very good friend to the deer industry. We will miss his excellence and commitment to the betterment of our industry.

Jim Moir, President DIAA