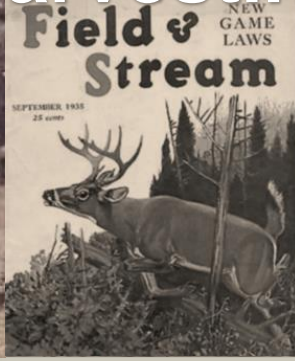


Hunting & Harvesting Deer in Nillumbik



Hunting, control and harvesting

Hunting is a sport, designed with the principles of Fair Chase in mind. Often but not always, hunting focusses on targeting one or two animals that will make a good meal, or might be good subjects for taxidermy.

Control, however, focusses on reducing deer numbers in an area. Often there are more animals culled than can be consumed for personal use.

Harvesting provides a way to utilize deer that are surplus to personal needs, by taking them to a game meat processing facility.

Recreational hunters may use any part of the deer that they take from private land (with permission of the landowner) or from public land (with a game licence, in approved areas) for personal consumption.

Recent changes allow hunters to take the deer to an unlicensed meat processing facility to have carcasses processed for a hunter's personal consumption.

No deer (or parts thereof) can be sold or traded, as this is seen as a commercial transaction, even if it is donated or given away for free.

Getting set up to harvest

To be able to really effective as a harvester, you may need special equipment (e.g. a vehicle winch and hoist) to assist with retrieval of deer from tricky locations and a trailer that meets Prime Safe standards and is able to transport quite a few deer.

Although it is expensive to get set up, control programs often specify that all deer carcasses are removed from sites, so unless you can safely and legally bury the animals, harvesting can be a good solution.

It is worth noting, however, that harvesting deer can be a time-consuming activity, as not only do the animals need to be retrieved, but they also need to be eviscerated within a certain timeframe before transporting them to a processing facility.

Become a Game Meat Harvester

Should a hunter or professional pest animal controller wish to obtain a financial benefit from the culling of feral deer, they should consider becoming an accredited **game meat field harvester** approved by PrimeSafe to

harvest, bleed and field dress wild game animal carcasses for human consumption or pet food.

To become an approved harvester you will need to be certified in Wild Animal Field Harvesting or equivalent, have evidence of shooting proficiency certification, a current Firearms Licence, a PrimeSafe licensed Harvest Vehicle and you will need to pay a licence fee.

The PrimeSafe **Game Harvester Guideline April 2020** has more details, and www.primesafe.vic.gov.au has the most up to date information.

Harvest vehicles

A Game Meat Processing (Harvest) Vehicle must be designed so that carcasses are carried in a way that allows the meat to cool and protects it from contamination.



Where to harvest

Deer can be harvested from private land in Victoria with written approval from the landowner. Deer can also be harvested from Crown land with prior approval granted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

Need Help?

If you are experiencing problems with deer on your property, contact the **Nillumbik Shire Council** Environment Team for advice on property management and deer control.

Email environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Phone 9433 3111