

**Submission
No 426**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mr Hans Witteveen

Date received: 24/08/2012

Dear Sir,

Although outside NSW, I offer this submission in the interests of interstate consistency and recognition of reciprocal hunting interests between our States. Not only interstate but international hunters come here to enjoy themselves. Public Land Management should not continue as an excuse to exclude all but passive users.

Legitimate hunting has positive impact on the human condition and is compatible with public safety, environmental welfare and sustainable resource use. Recognising some concerns by opponents of hunting public land, it is appropriate to consider that this is substantively ill informed and unrepresentative of the majority population. Hunting is actually one of the genuine wilderness activities. Unrealistic concerns about people blazing away fail to recognise the reality that this is not successful hunting practice.

In Victoria, regulated hunting in some National Parks came about because the implementation of these Parks was subject to community consensus for multi-purpose public use. Not all Parks are available for all uses, scientific reference zone exclusions, public amenity issues, etc indicate what uses are appropriate. Where potential congestion may cause concern, a balloted access might be considered.

In the case of the Alpine National Park, there was some concern of 'bullets flying all over the place' until it was pointed out that these areas had been hunted for decades and it had caused such a problem that potential opponents were not even aware it was happening. The reality is that user separation between seasonal climate variations and between walkers staying mainly on tracks against hunters being in the bush mean that there are few actual meetings between different sections of public users. My personal experience when meeting others in the bush is usually friendly.

Attached is a historic submission relative to Victoria but hopefully of interest for your inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Hans Witteveen



ALPINE STUDY AREA

SUBMISSION TO

THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIC.

**DEC
1982**

**SPORTING SHOOTER'S ASSOCIATION OF AUST.
(VICTORIA)**

prepared by

THE GAME RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Patron:
The Hon.
Sir Rupert Hamer
KCMG ED

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Vic.)

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O. BOX 2223T G.P.O. MELBOURNE VIC. 3001, TELEPHONE: 547 1974

INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING UNION

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC FEDERATION
SPORTS FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

AFFILIATED WITH:
'AUSTRALIAN SHOOTING ASSOCIATION - THROUGH THE S.S.A. NATIONAL

A L P I N E S T U D Y A R E A

SUBMISSION FOR L.C.C. REVIEW DECEMBER 1982

SECTION 1 GENERAL

Only some five years have elapsed since the Land Conservation Council conducted an exhaustive study into the use of this area and made its final recommendations in relation to future community needs. A balance between conservation, recreation, and economic exploitation was obviously seen as the only logical and reasonable approach.

While it would be difficult, after so short a time, to substantiate any major change to those recommendations there are many minor aspects which could, and should, be given further consideration.

Appended to this paper is a copy of this Association's original 1977 submission to the L.C.C. regarding the Alpine Study Area (white pages). The comments made in the first section of that submission are, we believe, still valid in their essentials however some expansion as follows now seems warranted :-

SAMBAR DEER : The L.C.C. Supplementary Report could be misleading in that it acknowledges deer hunting as an important use of blocks 1 & 2 but it gives little recognition to the sport in the eastern blocks. Recent studies by the Sambar Working Group (Deer Advisory Council of Victoria) indicate the general eastward movement of Sambar Deer in this State - a fact long recognised by experienced deer men.

/ Proximity to

Proximity to Greater Melbourne will always mean more weekend hunting pressure in the western zones but the eastern blocks are highly significant for their value to urban hunters planning more extensive hunting expeditions and to the growing number of hunters in the eastern and northern parts of the State who regard much of the more accessible eastern deer range as their 'back yard'.

We urge the L.C.C. to review its previous exclusion of deer stalking with rifle from such areas as the Avon Wilderness and the Cobberas-Tingaringy National Park. There is no conservation purpose or benefit in the prohibition of deerstalking per se - quite the opposite may well be the case - and these eastern areas are not such that there is likely to be any conflict of interests.

DINGOES AND WILD DOGS: While pure dingoes appear to form a small percentage of the wild dog population within the study area we believe the larger numbers of indeterminate breed must be effectively controlled - preferably by proven selective methods.

GRAZING & FIRE : The importance of controlled grazing and fuel reduction burning as management tools should not be overlooked particularly in those areas now set aside as parks. In the past there has been a basic philosophical attitude by national parks enthusiasts against both grazing and burning although this attitude is certainly changing.

In the management of such extensive areas as, for example, the Wonnangatta - Moroka National Park the more labour intensive measures would seem to be neither practical nor desirable. The best protection against massively destructive wildfires is a planned mosaic of cycle burns where the heavy build up of ground fuel can be kept under some control.

POISONS (VERMIN AND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL) : We have serious reservations about the use of poisons in the Alpine Area but, where no reasonable alternative exists we believe they should be used only where they can be made selective against the target species. The use of taste aversion agents can assist here.

ROADS AND TRACKS : We believe that there should be no substantial upgrading of existing roads and tracks in the alps apart from those servicing the ski resorts. Further, we believe that no new tracks should be established in park areas without an Environmental Impact Statement being prepared which provides full justification for them. In some cases conservation values would be enhanced and the communities best interests would be served by closure of a number of existing tracks.

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SECTION 2

WONNANGATTA - MOROKA NATIONAL PARK

We regret that the L.C.C. did not concur with our earlier submissions suggesting a modified Wilderness Area status for the Wonnangatta - Moroka and adjoining watersheds. However, we do concede that the L.C.C. recommendations for the area did attempt to satisfy most people who are priviledged to know this remote and unique area.

While accepting that the National Parks Service is the appropriate body to administer the Wonnangatta - Moroka, the classification as a National Park per se could in fact have counter productive and destructive side effects if they are not quickly forestalled. The very real self-defeating paradox is that areas, such as the one under discussion, attract more visitors once declared a National Park with a consequent demand for 'facilities' and ultimately the loss of the very character for which the area was considered of such great value.

The Wonnangatta's character of remote and beautiful wilderness, so enriching to the outdoor experience, has been under rapidly escalating pressure over the past decade or so, particularly from excessive vehicle use - doubtless by deer hunters as much as any other group. A REVERSAL OF THIS TREND AND A REDUCTION IN VEHICLE

ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF THE SPECIAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA IS TO BE RETAINED.

We strongly urge that the Wonnangatta - Moroka be redesignated a 'Wilderness Park' which might then direct management objectives at something between a National Park and a true Wilderness Area.

We believe however that grazing should always be recognised as a vital management aspect of the valley clearings - particularly the extensive grass flats around the old Wonnangatta Station site. In the absence of controlled grazing the heavy spring growth on the flats will become a powder keg as it dries in the summer heat and pose a threat to the adjoining forest areas as well.

FIRE : To protect the park from wildfires ground fuel must be reduced by controlled burns. In the event of a wildfire and to cope with the possibility of people being trapped in the area we suggest that a fire refuge and helipad be established at each end of the main Wonnangatta valley flat and perhaps in some other areas as well.

Helicopter access to the area should be restricted to essential management and emergencies only. Apart from the fire refuges and helipads referred to above NO FACILITIES OR CONVENIENCES WHATEVER should be considered for the Wonnangatta-Moroka area. Planning controls would be necessary to ensure that this also applied to the freehold land in the valley.

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Prepared by

THE GAME RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
S.S.A.A. (Victoria)



**SPORTING SHOOTER'S ASSOCIATION OF AUST.
(V I C T O R I A)**

ALPINE STUDY AREA

SUBMISSION TO

THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIC.

1977

prepared by

THE GAME RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

A L P I N E S T U D Y A R E A

Submission to: THE LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

Prepared by the Game Research & Management Committee, S.S.A.A. (Vic).

Gentlemen,

In presenting this submission we are concerned, not just for deer-stalking - the most challenging and difficult of the hunting sports - but for the preservation of the natural environment in the only really significant wilderness area left in Victoria. This wilderness, which includes most of the Alpine Study Area, is also an important link with Australian life and culture of bygone years.

Our views presented herein have been divided into two parts:-

1. GENERAL - observations and comments of a general nature pertaining to the regions covered by the Study Area.
2. WILDERNESS PROPOSAL - a specific proposal for a Wilderness Area free of all motorised vehicles and implements, and centered on the Wonnangatta watershed.

PART 1

GENERAL

We strongly believe that the area covered by this Study should be protected from further alienation and especially from ill-aimed schemes which seek to dissect it by major roads of extremely doubtful value to the future of Victoria. Few thinking Victorians would disagree that the bulk of the Study area must be maintained intact. The practical administration of the necessary protection could however become a source of conflict.

The last 20 to 30 years of National Parks legislation and management has, in many cases, been motivated by forces and prejudices unrelated to any valid conservation objective. Because of this we are concerned for the future of legitimate hunting (particularly deerstalking) in the area should it come under National Parks Administration as a National Park.

We are aware however of the more broadminded and scientific approach of National Parks management in recent years and would not be opposed to the general concept put forward by the National Parks Association for a Multi-Purpose Alpine Park subject to adequate safeguards for the deer and the hunting sport.

SAMBAR DEER : The Alpine Study Area covers the greater part of the range of the Sambar Deer or Indian Elk in Victoria. We are fortunate to have this large representative of the deer family as part of the wildlife resource of this State. It absorbs a considerable amount of hunting pressure and has a very low impact on its habitat. The Sambar is not a herd animal and, even in its native India, is only found in small scattered family groups which seldom exceed five or six animals. This deer is a remarkably clean and disease free animal. It poses no threat to us or the environment and has a great deal to its credit. An attempt by any administration to threaten the future of Sambar in the Alpine Area would be vigorously opposed by us.

HUNTING : Hunting is the ONLY significant recreational activity in the Alpine region below the snowline in winter and would rank high at other times of the year. The alpine areas are the traditional hunting ground of Victoria's deerstalkers who undertake hunting trips of up to three weeks using lightweight packing equipment similar to bushwalkers. Deerstalkers are unlikely to be encountered during the popular "walking" periods of Christmas and Easter and even those hunters who may be about will not be found hunting the walking tracks.

Hunting of legal species must be recognised as one of the legitimate activities in this area whatever land classification it ultimately acquires. We could not accept a situation where hunting is disallowed in this traditional hunting area, nor can we tolerate the patronising offer once made that hunting should *merely* be "phased out" over a long period. Another offer that hunters would only be called in to help if the deer got out of hand is also unacceptable. We could only support a proper biologically monitored management programme aimed at the continued well being of the deer in the area.

DINGO : We are quite sure that no Australian would want to see the eradication of the Dingo in this area even if that were possible. On the other hand the campaign to fully protect the dingo strikes us as unsound.

Years of pressure from professional dingo trappers and baiters has proved necessary to keep the dingo population within reasonable bounds. Hunters who know the areas well claim there has been an increase in the dogs over the past few years as evidenced by an increase in sightings, droppings, tracks, howling, and the clusters of grey feathers indicating where a lyrebird or some other bird has fallen prey to a dingo.

The dingo has a remarkable capacity for self preservation. Not only do we see no point in protecting him at this time but there are some reasons for continuing professional control with special attention to areas where the dogs are not pure bred dingo.

BRUMBIES : The brumby has earned a special place in the literature and folk lore of Australia and is a romantic part of our heritage still existing in the alpine areas. We would regard any attempt at eradication as a scandal although reasonable control may be necessary from time to time.

CATTLE : There has been a long tradition of cattle grazing in the highlands and we believe it should continue subject to strict controls designed to avoid damage to the alpine environment.

LOGGING : Exploitation of mountain ash stands within the Alpine Study Area is a legitimate use of the region but the present Forests Commission practice of sealing off roads and snig tracks after logging should be more thorough so that tracks cannot possibly be used.

ROADS : We believe that any significant extension to the existing road system or any new road construction through the area would be nothing short of a national disaster. Under no circumstances should any major new road link be considered and any preparatory work already done in connection with a link through the Wonnangatta Valley should be demolished and the sites restored to their natural condition. The main Dargo to Hotham Road should remain open to through traffic only during the summer.

DAMS AND RIVERS : Future water conservation projects should be constructed outside the natural areas in the region. Wild rivers are an essential part of the pristine environment. Taming of rivers through dams and clearing of treefalls (desnagging) to create clinical viaducts in place of wild rivers would destroy the values essential to the area.

PROSPECTING : Prospecting should be permitted throughout the entire study area even if subsequent development of any significant "find" is disallowed. We feel that Australians are entitled to know what is in the region as this knowledge may well be a factor in national survival at some future time. The concept of keeping people in the dark so as to deprive them of the right to exercise their options could have little justification.

MINING : We believe that mining should not be permitted in any alpine or sub-alpine wilderness area except for reasons critical to national survival and even then only under the strictest controls.

PART 11

W I L D E R N E S S A R E A P R O P O S A L

"Wilderness is the fundamental recreational resource" Aldo Leopold.

Our submission is based on the belief that, to counter the growing pressures of modern living, there will be ever increasing demands for high adventure outdoor recreation. This alone dictates the necessity to make appropriate provision now in any land use decisions.

Potential wilderness areas are rapidly disappearing and, by definition, are not something that can be synthesized, conjured up, or reproduced.

We propose that a large tract of natural wilderness in the Victorian Alps be declared a Wilderness Area and that all movement within the area be restricted to persons on foot or horseback. The area should allow for trail riding (on horseback), bushwalking, ^{ice skating} hunting, fishing, canoeing, rock climbing, ski touring, gemstone collecting, amateur gold panning and prospecting, adventure training, and any other low impact activity which can be conducted *in* total harmony with the natural wilderness environment. We would certainly not envisage any massive influx of people as this would defeat the very values for which a Wilderness Area is sought.

ALL MOTORISED VEHICLES AND APPLIANCES SHOULD BE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN WITHIN THE AREA except for emergency use by Government officials.

The spiritual experience of a wilderness is destroyed by mechanical noise, unsightly rubbish, and even vehicle tracks. Some danger and hardship are also part of this experience and no attempt should be made to eliminate the challenge and risks which are essential for developing hardihood and self reliance. There should be no location signs within the Wilderness Area but accurate topographical maps should be readily available.

CAMPING : Camping out is an integral part of the bushwalking, hunting and fishing scene, especially in an area where pack trips of some weeks duration are not only feasible but desirable. Lightweight camping should be permitted throughout the entire Wilderness Area subject to controls designed to eliminate litter and other undesirable indications of camp sites.

AIR TRANSPORTATION : We can see no place for air-borne hunting or other activities within the Wilderness Area, especially the supply or resupply by "air drop" which only increases the litter problem. More importantly, we believe the air dropping of supplies or the gaining of access to remote areas in the Wilderness by helicopter negates the personal effort aspect of proper planning and self-reliance - two very important characteristics of what a Wilderness Area is all about.

PRIVATE HOLDINGS : Any privately held land within the described area, particularly that in the centre of the Wonnangatta Valley should be resumed by the Crown and the present owners properly compensated.

CATTLE : Cattle grazing could continue sympathetic to the Wilderness Area and subject to strict controls with roundups conducted in accordance with the restrictions on the area i.e. without the assistance of motorised vehicles or appliances.

LOGGING : Where valuable stands of mountain ash or other timber exist in the Wilderness Area we would not oppose its extraction provided :-

(a) Periferal areas only were logged.

LOGGING CONT :

- (b) The operation was carried out in one small block at a time.
- (c) Any snig tracks or logging roads did not penetrate deeply into the Wilderness Area.
- (d) As each block was worked out full restoration was carried out and all tracks properly sealed off.

DARGO / HOTHAM ROAD : This road passes through the proposed Wilderness Area and, while through traffic (during the summer period) should not be obstructed, vehicles should not be permitted to drive off the main road.

BOUNDARIES : We recommend that the Wilderness should be confined within the following boundaries:-

Western Boundary

The west boundary begins on the Cobbler Lake / Abeyard track about a quarter km from Buffalo River. Follow this track south past Cobbler Lake to Speculation Road - then to Mt. Speculation on the Great Dividing Range. The Great Dividing Range now becomes the boundary through King Billy, Mount Clear to the Knobs - turns south along Knobs spur to Bull Plain track at Grimme Saddle then follows this track south passing through Bull Plain, Basalt Knob, Borrell Plain - along Bull Plain spur and terminating at Mt. Lookout.

Southern Boundary

From Mt. Lookout east to cross the McAlister River at Hellfire Gully and up to the Crinoline - continue east down ridge and cross Breakfast Creek at Longhill Creek junction - up main ridge to Mt. Ligar and Mt. Tamboritha then follow Bennison Plains Road north east to Mt. Arbuckle before turning east to follow the Moroka Road through the Dry Hills to McFarlane saddle and Trapyard Hill - then turns south east past Moroka Hut and crossed to south side of Moroka River at Snake Gully. Follow the track north east then along Little Round Plain Creek where the track becomes Pinnacles Road. Follow through to Stonehenge, Billy Goat Bluff and then follow

Southern Boundary Cont.

ridge in NNW direction to strike to Wonnangatta River half a mile upstream from the "Happy Valley" homestead. Follow the river downstream to the junction of the Wonnangatta and the Wangangara then up the Wangangara to Hibernia Spur and east along Hibernia Spur to Barber Hill. Follow along Ashlin Cutting Road to Dargo River then upstream along the Dargo River to Jones Road. The Southern Boundary then follows Jones Road east to terminate at Mt. Baldhead.

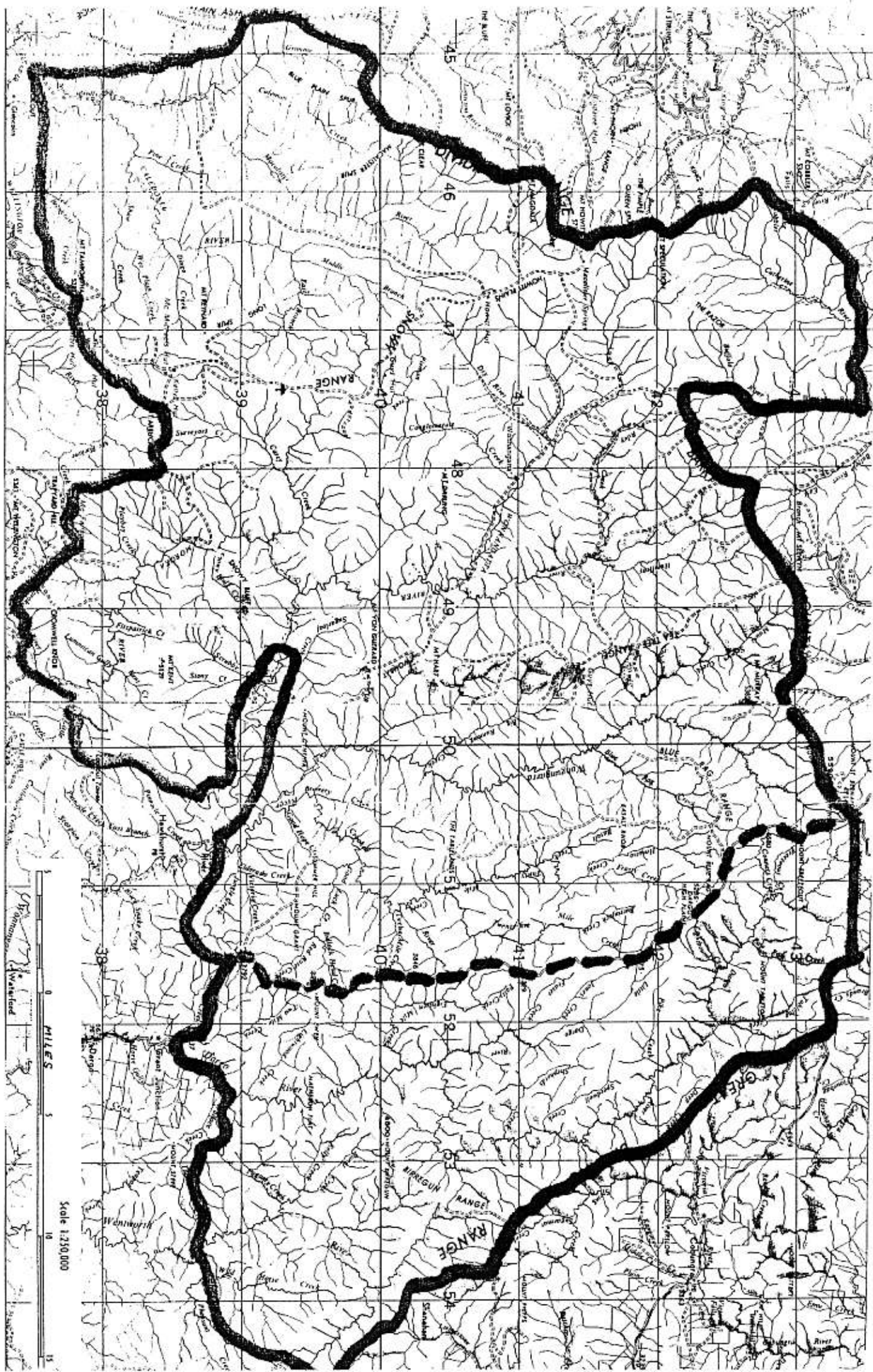
Eastern Boundary

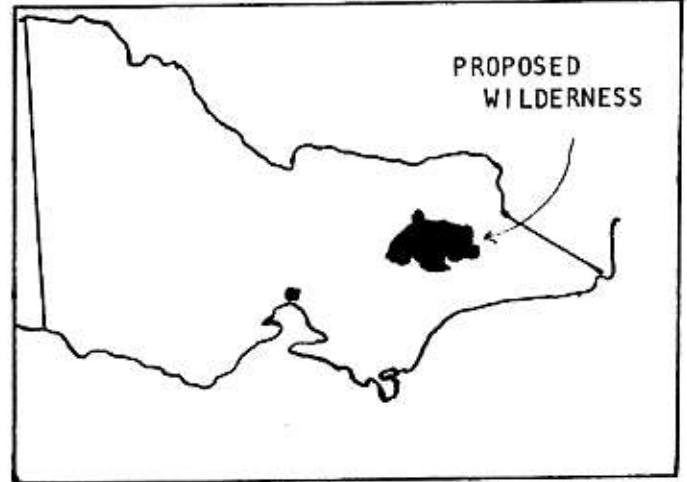
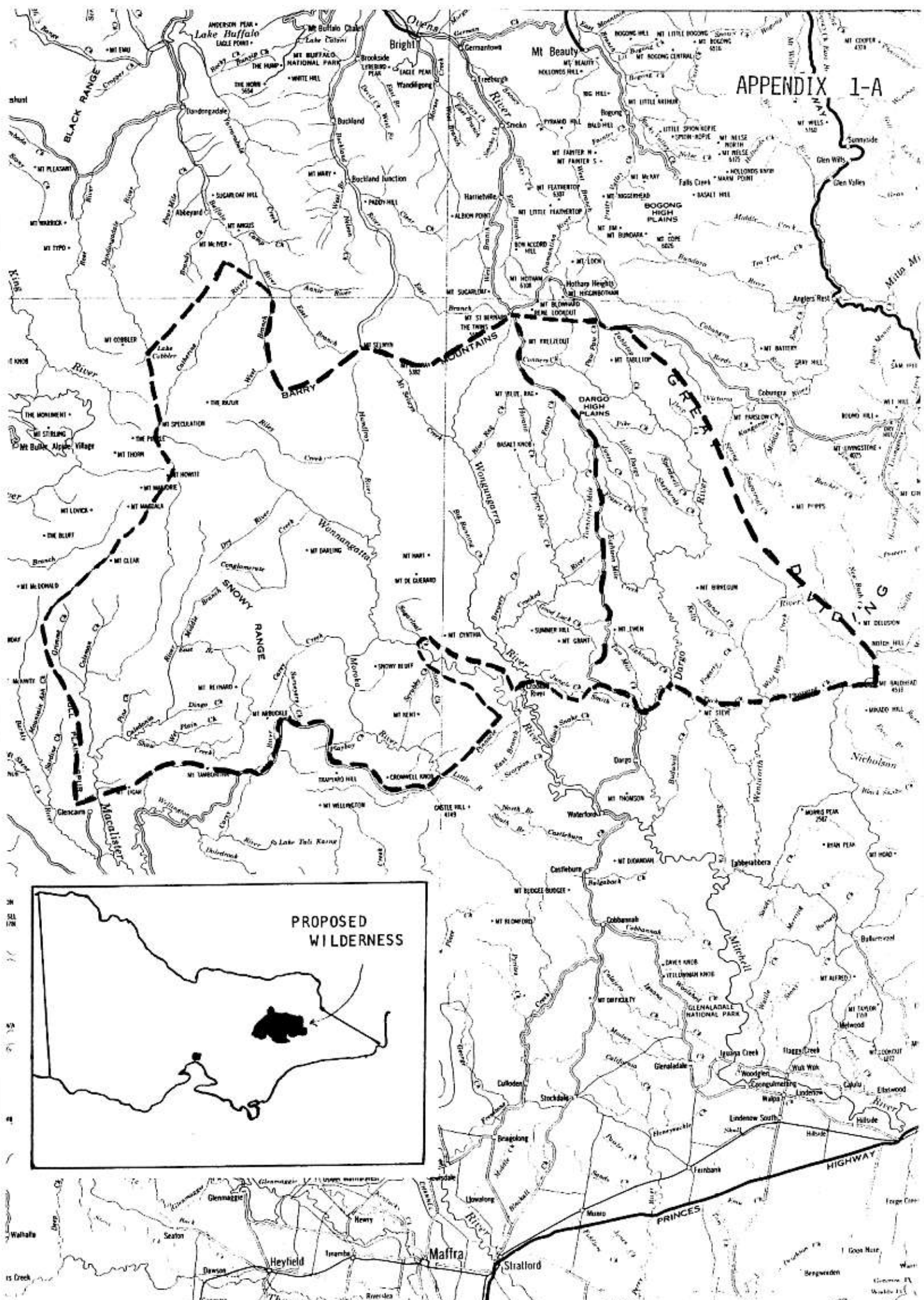
Runs north from Mt. Baldhead following the Great Dividing Range through Groves Gap and Birregan Ranges to Victoria River track which it follows north along the main ridge and terminates at the Omeo / Hotham Heights Road.

Northern Boundary

From the junction of the Victoria River Road and the Omeo / Hotham Heights Road the boundary runs west along the latter road to Mt. St. Bernard The Barry Mountains ridge now becomes the boundary which continues past The Twins, around the headwaters of the Wonnangatta, to Mt. Selwyn, then onto Barrys Saddle (just east of the Viking). The boundary turns north to the West Branch of the Buffalo River and follows this river downstream to a point about a quarter km from main Buffalo River. Runs parallel to Buffalo River meeting Cobbler Lake / Abeyard track.

- APPENDIX A Map showing the proposed Wilderness Area and its relationship to the rest of Victoria.
- APPENDIX B S.S.A.A. Policy Leaflet "Deerhunting and Conservation" which was published in 1972.





A comparatively recent innovation is for a party to hold back part of the dog pack until the deer and the first lot of dogs have become tired. The fresh dogs are then put in on the exhausted deer for the final kill. We have no hesitation in condemning this type of hunting. It must be discredited amongst hunters and stopped by legislation if necessary.

As stated earlier, we are adamant that the coursing of any deer species other than Sambar must be stopped.

HUNTING AREAS: The two methods of deer-hunting, i.e. Stalking and Hounding, are quite incompatible in the same areas as all the requirements for deerstalking are shattered in the general commotion of a hound hunt. If frictions are to be avoided it will be necessary to set aside suitable areas for stalking purposes only. As dogs will travel great distances during a hunt it is imperative that these areas be large enough to afford the necessary protection.

We suggest that deerstalking should be the only permissible hunting method in the following areas:

1. The Thomson and Jordan Valleys—North from an East/West line through Mt. Erica up to the Aberfeldy/Matlock Triangle road. (A large part of this area is soon to be closed off by the M.M.B.W.)
2. The Upper Goulburn and Black River watersheds—South from an East/West line through the A1 Settlement down to the Aberfeldy/Matlock Road. (To include only that area East of the Woods Point Road.)
3. The watershed of the Wanangatta River and its tributaries from an East/West line through Mt. Wellington up to the top of the Great Dividing Range.
4. The Taponga River watershed.
5. The Torbrek and Royston Ranges—area between the Royston River and the Dry Creek Road, North from Royston Gap to the S.E.C. Transmission Line. (Sanctuary area excluded.)

In addition to the above the use of hounds should not be permitted where the range of the Sambar overlaps the range of any other deer species. (E.g. in some isolated areas of South Gippsland.)

Following adequate research it may be desirable to declare other areas where no hunting at all would be permitted so as to create some completely undisturbed areas for the deer.

MOUNT COLE STATE FOREST & SNAKE ISLAND

The above two areas contain quite large populations of deer which are a wasted resource since hunting is not at present permitted. Both areas are, of course, heavily poached and have been for many years.

We strongly recommend that the Sambar Deer on Mt. Cole and the Hog Deer on Snake Island should be legally utilised as a valuable part of the State's game

resource. We suggest this should be done on a special permit system. Permit holders to be decided by a ballot of applicants who hold a current deer stamp.

Such a scheme will not only assist the sales of deer stamps but will give legal deerhunters a vested interest in the prevention of illegal hunting.

BAG LIMITS AND SEASONS: The setting of bag limits and seasons should be based on sound research, the constant monitoring of deer populations and habitat conditions, and a knowledge of annual harvests. We can assume that, with the money now available, this collection of data will be undertaken by the Fisheries & Wildlife Department with a minimum of delay. However, until this stage is reached there are some obvious steps which can be taken as an interim measure.

The new deer hunting regulations should not permit any one person to take more than three deer per year in Victoria. These should be limited to two Sambar and only one from the other species combined. Hunters should be encouraged to take deer of both sexes as this is generally more beneficial to deer herds than "stags only" hunting.

SAMBAR—No evidence at present exists to indicate any necessity for a closed season on Sambar Deer. Proper regulation of hunting and achievement of the optimum harvest can and should be accomplished by other means. Closed seasons may be declared for specific areas to coincide with any heavy influx of tourists or for other special reasons.

PARA or HOG—A closed season for Hog Deer should be declared from at least the beginning of October to the end of January when stags are likely to be in "velvet". Because of the very low Hog Deer populations on the Victorian mainland at the present time it may be necessary to close all Hog Deer hunting on the mainland for a year or two so that an assessment of the situation can be made.

FALLOW—The closed season for Fallow Deer should be kept in line with the closed season operating in Tasmania. Because of the depressed condition of Fallow herds in Victoria a complete rest from hunting pressure for at least two years could be a decided help to their rehabilitation.

RED—An open season extending from early March to late May should be the maximum allowed at the present time.

SUNDAY ISLAND: As the Para Park Co-operative is a privately owned and financed conservation project and is managed in conjunction with the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, it calls for some special consideration and should be managed independently from the rest of the State. We suggest that all matters relating to deer hunting and management on Sunday Island should be left in the hands of the Para Park Game Management Panel which is a joint committee of the Co-operative and the Fisheries and Wildlife Department.

SPORTING SHOOTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)



Deer Hunting and Conservation

*(suggestions for legislative action following the
introduction of the deer licence in Victoria)*

REPORT

prepared by

THE GAME RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

at the request of the S.S.A.A. President

JUNE 1972

INTRODUCTION

For many years deerhunting in Victoria has been allowed to develop without proper disciplines and guidelines. This has resulted in the use of certain unsavoury and unethical hunting practices which adversely affect the conservation of the deer resource. A number of these methods are, to say the least, atrociously bad conservation practice and must be eliminated. Other practises need to be controlled so that all deer licence holders will get a fair go and will thus be encouraged to continue purchasing the deer stamp annually.

It is many decades since any deer management work was officially carried out in Victoria and all deer species except the Sambar are not available on the Victorian mainland in sufficient populations to withstand any heavy hunting pressure at the present time.

While funds may not be immediately available for large scale management work in the field, there are a number of legislative steps which can and should be taken which will regulate hunting pressure and eliminate practices which have a deleterious effect on the deer herds. Many benefits should accrue from such legislation and a degree of management will be achieved without the need for any immediate financial outlay.

WE BELIEVE THAT LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED TO CONTROL OR ELIMINATE THE FOLLOWING PRACTICES:—

(1) **SPOTLIGHTING:** The taking of deer with the aid of artificial light must be stopped as soon as possible. This is a very effective method of taking deer as they are easily shot while dazzled in the beam of a light. It is most damaging to deer conservation efforts as frequent spotlighting in an area can decimate or even wipe out a local herd. Because apprehension of offenders may be difficult those who are caught should be dealt with severely. Very heavy penalties must be introduced to put an end to this practice—even to the extent of confiscation of firearms and vehicle and the imposition of a gaol term or a very heavy fine (we suggest \$1,000). Most countries of the world deal very severely with shooters who spotlight deer.

(2) **SELLING OF VENISON:** Market hunting for venison has had some adherents over the last 15 years or so. Our depleted deer herds certainly cannot stand this type of exploitation and firm action will be necessary to stamp it out. Hotels and restaurants wishing to have venison on the menu can obtain supplies from New Zealand sources and there is no need to use local venison for this purpose. The inducement of financial reward leads to greedy and damaging hunting practices. It would seem that the sale of venison is already prohibited under the Victorian Game Act but some strengthening of the Act will be needed to make this type of exploitation unprofitable for both hunter and restaurateur.

(3) **UNRESTRICTED USE OF DOGS:** The coursing of all deer species OTHER THAN SAMBAR must cease. Experienced deer observers with no special axe to grind, are unanimous that this practice is particularly damaging to Hog Deer and Fallow Deer and there can be no justification whatever for its continuation. Suggested penalty, \$400.

The hound hunting of Sambar Deer is dealt with in a later section of this report.

(4) **USE OF INADEQUATE FIREARMS:** The sportsman's aim must be to consistently take his deer with one clean shot. There are generally agreed minimum calibres which can accomplish this with reasonable surety. The use of smaller calibres, particularly in the hands of less experienced hunters, will not consistently give humane kills and only tend to produce an unacceptable number of wounded and crippled animals which are not only lost to the hunter but, because they often die later, are also a loss to the game resource.

In keeping with the best overseas legislation we suggest that the following minimum size cartridges should be adopted and legislation enacted to permit prosecution of hunters who use a lighter calibre.

Deer	Min. Calibre	Min. Bullet Wt.	Min. Muzzle Energy
Sambar	.270	150 grs.	2,300 ft. lbs.
Fallow	.243 (6mm)	75 grs.	1,500 ft. lbs.
Hog			
Red			

It will be necessary to designate cartridge sizes fully as above because the mere specification of a minimum projectile diameter would permit the use of some very old, low powered cartridges which are quite unsuitable under most conditions, e.g. 25/20 Win.

It must be stressed that the above calibres are the suggested minimums and should not be interpreted as the recommended ones.

(5) **SHOOTING FROM MOTORISED VEHICLES:** It should be illegal to shoot at a deer from a motorised vehicle (be it land vehicle, boat or aircraft). It should also be illegal for a hunter to fire a shot from within 50 feet of a vehicle. Such a restriction will do much to improve attitudes within the sport to both hunting and conservation. An enforcement penalty in the vicinity of \$200 would not be excessive.

As there could well be some organised resistance by some hunters to any restrictions, the Association must be prepared, if necessary, to debate the above issues publicly in the news media.

HOUND HUNTING: The use of pursuit hounds to hunt deer has been practised in Victoria for many decades and has become part of the deer-hunting tradition in this State. Principally because of the undesirable methods which have crept into this type of hunting in recent years, a large number of Victorian sportsmen would wish to see the coursing of deer stopped altogether.

As far as Sambar Deer are concerned we do not see any real necessity for this and we would not support this point of view. We believe it is not hound hunting which should be prohibited but rather the undesirable practices which have been associated with it.

The use of large, highly mobile teams of men, equipped with two-way radios and large packs of dogs (often described as "search and destroy operations") is hardly a fair thing and should not be permitted to masquerade under the name of sport. The use of fast dogs, bred to pull down and kill deer, is a practice which all sportsmen will condemn and any legislation which can prevent this would be welcomed. When this type of dog is not recovered after a hunt the damage done to deer and other wildlife while they are at large can well be imagined.



J.H. Bucknall
62