

Ref: MHO2417

1 May 2015

Mr Steve Morvell

Halls Gap VIC 3381

Dear Mr Morvell,

Thank you for your email of 11 April 2015 to the Hon Usa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, regarding deer management in the Gramplans National Park (GNP). As this issue falls within Parks Victoria's responsibilities, your correspondence has been forwarded to me for my consideration and response.

I note that the Acting Regional Director Western wrote to you on the 14th May 2014 on the same subject.

Deer are a poorly understood invasive herbivore species in Victoria. It is for this reason Parks Victoria commissioned a PhD candidate to study Red Deer mostly within the Victoria Valley section of the GNP. The PhD concluded there is relatively low density of Red Deer inhabiting woodland vegetation in GNP; and made no reference to any significant plants that are threatened by Red Deer.

Red Deer in GNP is not being monitored by Parks Victoria but anecdotally it appears that the population is stable. In contrast as a result of recent bushfires remote cameras have detected Fallow Deer in the core of GNP for the first time.

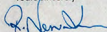
The current focus of Parks Victoria's conservation program relating to introduced herbivore management in GNP is (1) the control of feral goats as populations have become concentrated after recent bushfires, and (2) gaining a better understanding of the population and distribution of Fallow Deer in the core of the GNP.

As mentioned in the earlier correspondence there are existing mechanisms to control Red and Fallow Deer on private land under the Wildlife Act 1975. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) staff are able to provide advice on the control of deer on private land.

Should you require further advice on this matter, please contact Mr Dave Roberts, Acting District Manager South West on 5361 4007 or Mr Paul Ryan, DELWP Senior Wildlife Officer on 5336 6622.

Thank you for raising this matter with Minister Neville.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Newsome', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Rod Newsome

Regional Director Western