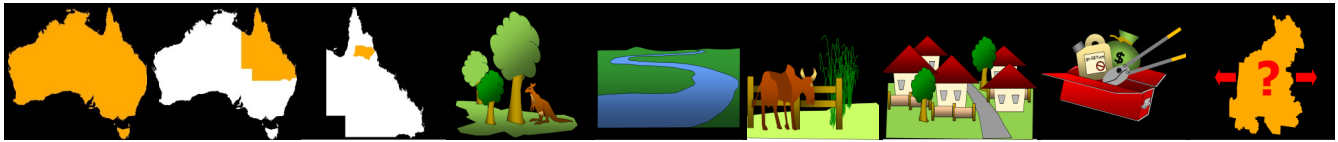


Rusa Deer *Cervus timorensis*

National priority State priority Previous local Conservation Water resources Agriculture and industry Community and residential Feasibility of control Current extent



0.0/5 1.5/5 2.0/05 3.0/5 3.0/5 3.0/5 3.0/5 3.0/5 3.0/5

Priority

Details

Description Rusa Deer have a grey-yellow-red-brown coat, which is darker brown on their hindquarters and thighs. Their body hair is coarse and stags develop a mane during winter. Stags stand up to 1.1m and weigh about 120kg. Hinds are around 95cm tall and weigh up to 80kg. Stags have three tined antlers with the beams forming a characteristic lyre shape.

Distribution Individual Rusa Deer have been reported west of Atherton, north of Kairi and north of Mareeba. They prefer grassy plains bordered by dense brush or woodlands where they can retire during the day. Rusa Deer are preferential grazers of grass, but also browse depending on season and availability of food. They are a tropical species so much of coastal Queensland and adjacent areas are suitable habitat.

Impacts Feral deer in Australia cause damage to a wide variety of agricultural crops, pastures and forestry plantations. Other impacts include damage to fences, spreading of weeds and fouling of waterholes.

Key projects The presence of Rusa Deer in the Tablelands Regional Council area is an emerging issue.

Background

Indonesian Rusa Deer were introduced to the Torres Strait in 1912. In recent years populations have been established by translocations around Townsville, Rockhampton and southern Queensland.

Apart from impacts resulting in loss of agricultural production, Rusa Deer also damage native vegetation by browsing and trampling understorey and seedling plants, and ring-barking young trees. When feral deer density is high, a significantly lower diversity and abundance of plant species is evident.

Feral deer are susceptible to exotic livestock diseases including foot-and-mouth, rinderpest, vesicular stomatitis, rabies and blue tongue. Unchecked, wild herds could play a major role in the spread of infection and act as a reservoir of disease.

Rusa Deer have established in both rural and periurban areas of Queensland and may damage parks, residential gardens and fences in outer urban areas. Where close to major roads, wandering deer represent a serious traffic hazard.

Detailed exclusion fencing details can be found at daf.qld.gov.au.

Control calendar

Rutting													Key Peak ● First/last flush ● Occasional ● Optimal ● Good ● Marginal ●
Fawns													
Shoot													
Trap													
Fence													
Best time	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	

For more information on using this biosecurity action plan fact sheet, and further information on control tools, refer to the Tablelands Biosecurity Plan available at trc.qld.gov.au and customer service centres.

1300 362 242 (24hr Customer Service)

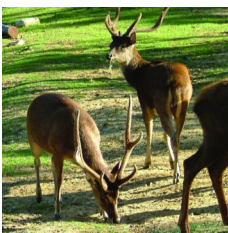
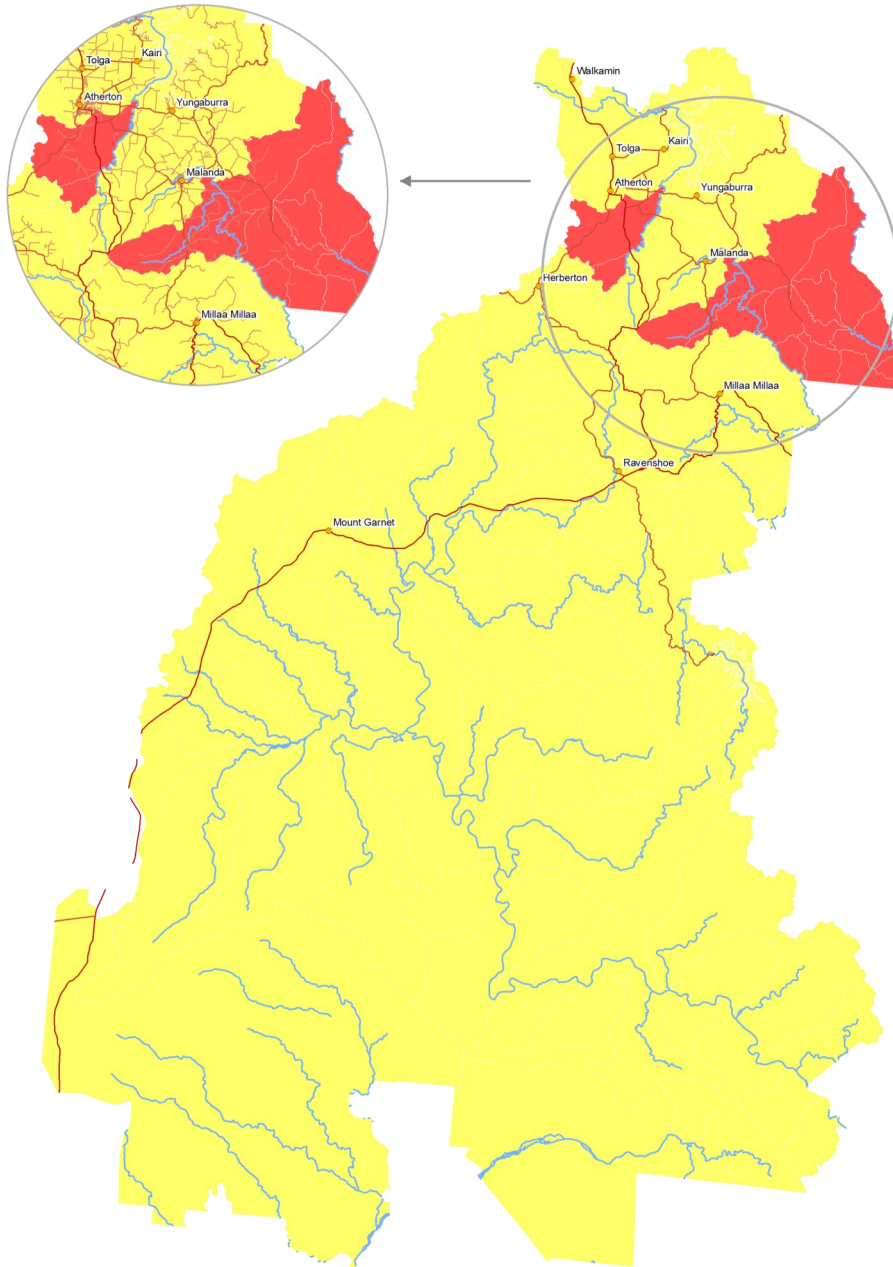
info@trc.qld.gov.au

www.trc.qld.gov.au

PO Box 573, Atherton QLD 4883

Tablelands Regional Council

Customer Service Centres in Atherton, Herberton, Malanda & Ravenshoe



Vertebrate

Herbivore

Biosecurity Act Restricted matter category

2 Must be reported

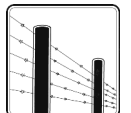
3 Do not distribute

4 Do not move

5 Do not keep

6 Do not feed

Control



What is my biosecurity obligation?

In the prevention zone

Deer contained within a deer-proof fence (such as on farms or in game parks) are not considered a restricted invasive pests. Any deer not within a deer-proof fence is considered feral or wild and subject to control.

In the asset protection zone

Rusa Deer are a restricted invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

Rusa Deer are a restricted invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*. They must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

While a variety of control methods are available, the management of feral deer is best achieved collaboratively with all stakeholders.