

## Park Management Notification

### Deer control (ground shooting) – Alpine National Park (southern alps)

**Parks Victoria will be implementing a deer control program in the Alpine National Park (southern alps) from September 2020 to May 2021.**

The large and devastating fires of 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 burnt over 1.5 million hectares of land across Victoria.

The fires were exceptional in size and impact and had a devastating effect on the natural environment. Under these conditions, invasive species are a significant threat to the survival and recovery of native plants, animals and large areas of habitat.

Introduced herbivores, such as deer, feral pigs and feral goats, can move into new areas after a fire and significantly damage native vegetation and important habitat areas. They also compete with native animals for food and habitat, prevent successful regrowth of native plants after fire and spread weeds.

Action is required to ensure habitats, native plants and animals are protected while at their most vulnerable. This involves controlling deer, not just in the burnt areas, but also in the adjacent unburnt areas which provide refuge for native species and harbour for introduced species.

Parks Victoria will recommence its deer control (ground shooting) program in the Alpine National Park north of Licola in September 2020; this program will continue until May 2021.

Deer are the main target species; pigs and goats will also be controlled where they occur.

The program will be carried out under strict conditions designed to ensure safe, effective, and humane practices are implemented. Suitably qualified and experienced contractors will be engaged to deliver the work. As deer are nocturnal, this work will mostly be undertaken at night.

All personnel involved will be working under the supervision of Parks Victoria staff. They will be readily identifiable and will act in accordance with all legal requirements to ensure the safe use of firearms.

Recreational deer hunting is a legitimate activity permitted in the park where the deer control operations are being conducted. The park will not be closed while these operations are underway. Note: the park may, at times, be closed for other reasons. Visit the Parks Victoria website for the latest information about access – [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au).

Parks Victoria staff and contractors will ensure all activities comply with the requirements regarding hygiene and physical distancing to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you have any questions about this program please contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

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