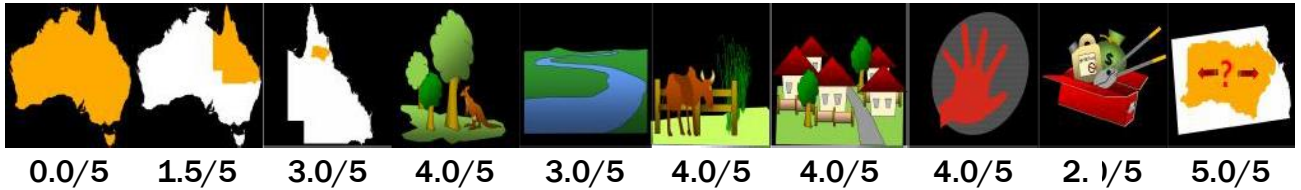


# Axis axis & Rusa timorensis (Chital & Rusa deer)

Priority



Details

**Description:** Feral deer originate from domestic stock which have been released or escaped from farms. Both Chital and Rusa deer are tropical/sub-tropical species. Any deer not within a deer-proof enclosure is considered a feral animal in the State of Queensland.

**Distribution:** Rusa deer were introduced to the Torres Strait in the early 1900's. A range of anecdotal reports indicate Rusa may be present in the gulf, north eastern and eastern Cape York. Chital deer were introduced near Charters Towers in the late 1900's. Their distribution is expanding up the inside of Great Divide and records exist from the eastern Palmer/Mitchell area.

**Impacts:** Feral deer compete with native animals and impact on native plants through grazing and browsing. Rutting stags may be aggressive to people, stock and domestic animals. Deer may damage fences, water points and compete with stock. Deer are susceptible to a range of livestock diseases including foot-and-mouth, rinderpest, vesicular stomatitis, rabies and blue tongue.

**Key projects:** The current range and density of feral deer is poorly mapped across Cook Shire.

Management requirements

At present the distribution of feral deer within the Cook Shire local government area is largely unknown preventing development of a coordinated management program. A future delimitation survey will determine the extent of the problem and inform a suitable regional response.

As the keeping of many deer species is not prohibited it is critical that husbandry practices are of a standard that will prevent deer escaping from enclosures and supplementing or creating new feral deer populations.

### Delimitation

In areas where land managers are currently aware of impacts to the environment or primary production caused by feral deer management options include capture and removal, aerial culling and ground based shooting and fencing of environmentally and/or culturally significant areas.

Similar to feral pigs, on extensive holdings land managers may also consider utilising recreational hunters however it is important to be aware of local government restrictions on land use, public liability and animal welfare legislation.

Control Calendar

rutting	○	○	○	○	○	◐	●	●	●	●	●	○	○
breed	◐	○	○	○	○	○	○	◐	●	●	●	●	◐
young	●	●	◐	○	○	○	○	◐	●	●	●	●	●
trap	○	○	○	○	◐	◐	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
shoot	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
fence	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐	◐
Biology	J	F	● M	A	M ●	J	J	A ○	S	O	N	○	D
			Peak		First/last flush			Occasional			n/a	⊗	
Control			Optimal		Good			Marginal			Not recommended		



Rusa doe



Chital doe



Rusa herd



Chital herd



Rusa stag



Chital stag

Vertebrate pest

herbivore

Category

2

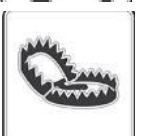
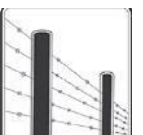
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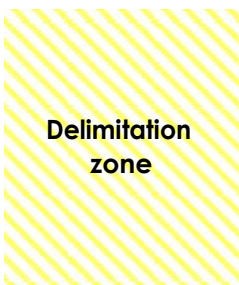
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Control



## What is my biosecurity obligation?



**Delimitation zone**

Both Chital and Rusa deer are restricted matter under the Biosecurity Act 2014. They must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit. Fencing and enclosures of farmed deer must be secure.

Report any suspected outbreaks or detections to Cook Shire on 07 4069 5444.

For more information on management aims in each zone refer to *Using the pest plan templates*