

Brisbane City Council feral deer cull increases

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By Jason Tin., *The Courier-Mail*, March 15, 2014

MORE deer have been gunned down in Brisbane so far this financial year than during the previous one, as the council's sharpshooters continue their battle against the herds trampling through the suburbs.

Wildlife advocates have applauded the shootings, with one prominent Queensland campaigner calling on the council to step up its efforts and increase the body count.

Wildlife Queensland spokesman Des Boyland said his organisation welcomed efforts to rid the region of deer. "If there is one deer in Queensland, it's one deer too many," he said.

The culling was sparked by fears the feral animals would cause serious traffic accidents, trample native plants, erode creek banks and spread disease.

The council has used three "animal control specialists" and a contractor to conduct field shooting, mostly around Pullenvale, Brookfield, Mount Ommaney, Oxley and Pinjarra Hills.

In 2012-13, 49 deer were shot in the Brisbane City Council area, while 59 have been killed this financial year. Almost 100 complaints were received in 2012-13, with 78 so far this year.

"Councils and landholders have an obligation to get rid of the feral animals and the sooner the better," Mr Boyland said.

"Unfortunately, people have let them get out of control, they do extensive damage to the environment."

Pullenvale registered the most complaints, with 39, followed by Brookfield and Upper Brookfield.

Mr Boyland said deer posed a serious risk to motorists and homeowners. "They're outrageous, they're a traffic hazard," he said.

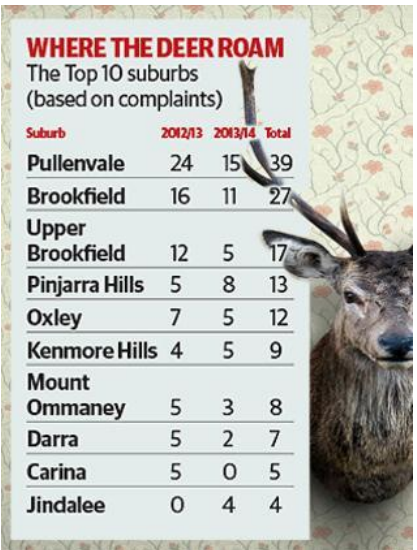
He added that he had only one problem with the cull: "We're probably disappointed that only two have been culled this year."

Brisbane City Council Environment, Parks and Sustainability chairman Cr Matthew Bourke said people needed to remember that deer were classed as pests, and council spent more than \$200,000 controlling animal pests each year.

"Brisbane is home to about 400 feral deer, including the rusa deer, red deer and fallow deer, which are all classed as a pest under state and council legislation because of the environmental, economic and social threats they pose," he said.

"Council has safety concerns about the animals, particularly having them come on to roads or getting too close to people.

"Deer can cause serious traffic hazards and impacts such as damage to native vegetation and gardens, erosions of creek banks, competition with native wildlife, spread of diseases and threat to public safety during the breeding season from stags."



Suburb	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Pullenvale	24	15	39
Brookfield	16	11	27
Upper Brookfield	12	5	17
Pinjarra Hills	5	8	13
Oxley	7	5	12
Kenmore Hills	4	5	9
Mount Ommaney	5	3	8
Darra	5	2	7
Carina	5	0	5
Jindalee	0	4	4