

# Periurban Deer Control Plan grant

## Major win for CDMC

The CDMC has applied for and received a DEECA grant of \$35,000 as a part of the Victorian Government's Victorian Deer Control Strategy (VDCS).

The VDCS was released in October 2020 and is being implemented by the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action (DEECA), formerly DELWP. An early action by DEECA, to assist in customising and managing control plans was to split the state in three: East, West & Periurban. Their initial focus has been on the periurban area which has received the first of the consultative processes and subsequent funding. The first stage of funding was distributed late in 2022 and was targeted largely to councils and government agencies such as Parks Vic and Melbourne Water.

The CDMC applied for the second round and were delighted to receive news our application for \$35,000 was granted in full. Our aim in applying for the grant was to increase the culling pressure on the deer population through community engagement and education, landowner outreach and support and facilitating, enhancing and increasing the safety of deer control through the purchase of high-end thermal equipment.

As required by the grant guidelines, the funding has been allocated to specific areas:

- ! Project management
- ! Employment of a part-time facilitator
- ! Training
- ! Purchase of deer monitoring and control equipment
- ! Community education and outreach
- ! Signage

We received the funding in May 2023 and have so far been able to purchase two rifle-mounted thermal scopes (co-funded by the Upper Beaconsfield Conversation Group), conducted two neighbourhood deer information nights and we have engaged a part-time facilitator, Geoff Lockwood.

Geoff has been known to the CDMC from our early days in 2018 and has helped us before with the vegetation survey. He has extensive experience in helping community groups involved in deer control and has previously been employed by the Cardinia Environment Coalition to manage local environmental reserves in our area.

That we have received this funding in full is a testament to the impressive track record the CDMC have in community-led volunteer deer control. We are well known to DEECA, with whom we have a good and enduring relationship. We are extremely grateful for the confidence DEECA have shown in us and our ability to carry out our mission and perform to the goals within the grant application.

