



Our ref: CORP F2024/000026
Receipt No: 18822737

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9 February 2024

The Hon Heidi Girolamo MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Girolamo

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 10 January 2024, seeking access to the following:

"I seek copies of the documents titled 'Event Status Update20230328T0931.pdf' as noted on Page 15 of FOI : Agency reference CORP F2023/000706 (25 March 2023)"

Timeframe: 24/03/2023 to 31/08/2023

On 11 January 2024, it was confirmed that your application was clarified and amended as follows:

"I seek copies of the documents titled 'Event Status Update20230328T0931.pdf' as noted on Page 3 of Document 1 of FOI : Agency reference CORP F2023/000706 (25 March 2023)"

Timeframe: 24/03/2023 to 31/08/2023

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located one document that was captured within the scope of your request.

Determination

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	GovSAfety Incident Report dated 28/3/2023	3

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 4(1)(a) and Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Clause 4(1)(a) states:

"4 - Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety

- (1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected—*
(a) *to endanger the life or physical safety of any person;"*

Clause 6(1) states:

"6 - Documents affecting personal affairs

- (1) *A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."*

The information removed pursuant to Clause 4(1)(a) and Clause 6(1) consists of:

- location details of an incident event which has been reported during feral deer aerial shooting control operations
- name of officer to whom the event was reported and their email address
- names of individuals
- name of witness
- mobile telephone numbers

Publicising the locations where feral deer could occur could result in illegal hunters accessing properties to illegally hunt the feral deer that are on the properties. In turn, there is a high likelihood that such activity would endanger the life or physical safety of members of the community.

Releasing the names of individuals, email addresses and mobile telephone numbers would identify the properties to which the event refers.

Exposing the names of the officers and witnesses and their telephone numbers to illegal hunters would pose a safety risk to the individuals concerned.

Disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer
Department of Primary Industries and Regions
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths
Accredited Freedom of Information Officer
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS

Event Details

Event Type

Event Type:

☐ Incident ☐ Injury / Illness ☒ Hazard

Event Details

☐ Is this event restricted?

Tick this box if the record is of a sensitive nature or requiring limited access, for example bullying, harassment or cultural safety. This means that only your Agency WHS contact will be notified by email of this record. They will follow up with you accordingly.

Date of Event e.g. DDMMYYYY

25/03/2023

Time of Event e.g.
HH:MM (24hr)

7:10PM

Date Reported e.g. DDMMYYYY

28/03/2023

Time Reported e.g.
HH:MM (24hr)

8:23AM

Reported By:

Employee

Reported By Name:

Clauses 4(1)(a),
6(1)

Contact Number:

Clauses 4(1)
(a), 6(1)

Email Address:

Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1)

Reported To:

Brad Page

Entered By:

Clauses 4(1)(a),
6(1)

Date/Time Entered:

28/03/2023 08:23 AM

Event Location

Where did the Event Occur?

Alternate Workplace

Specific Location:

Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1)

Address:

Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1)

Suburb:

Clauses
4(1)(a).

State:

SA

Postcode:

5272

Description of Event

Description of the Event:

PIRSA is undertaking feral deer control operations in the Limestone Coast region, on a project in collaboration with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. As part of this operation, Thermal Assisted Aerial Culling (which involves a helicopter, aerial marksmen, and a thermal camera operated by a dedicated camera operator) is currently being undertaken across private and public lands, including the extensive plantation forestry in the Green Triangle. Several large plantation companies are participating in the operation, including Clause 4(2)(a)(i). In order for aerial shooting to take place, landholder agreements must be in place and property ownership checked, before the helicopter can fly and aerial marksman can shoot target animals. Maps are confirmed with the landholders involved. Mapping was coordinated by collaborators at the Limestone Coast Landscape Board in conjunction with forestry managers and private landholders. Mapping was provided on behalf of the plantation forestry companies participating in the aerial shoot by Clause 4(2)(a)(i) from the Clause 4(2)(a)(i).

The property had recently been sold to one Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1). On Monday morning, the PIRSA program manager received a phone call from the Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1) was hunting deer on the property at the time. Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1) apparently had permission from the landholder Clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1).

Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 to shoot on the property, and allegedly was in the immediate area of the helicopter when feral deer were being shot by the aerial team. The following briefing on the events was compiled by Mike STEVENS of the Limestone Coast Landscape Board who is managing the investigation and has been added to by Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 the project manager. The attachments referenced are in the emails attached to this report. Shooter location Based on conversation with Clause s 4(1)(a), 6 his location was approximately Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1) Based on the flight path (see attached map 1) the helicopter's closest point was 339m. The track log aligns with Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 timing of 1910hrs. The flight path aligns with the account of Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 that the chopper went towards the edge of the bush then circled back in and commenced shooting. Number of deer shot in the area Within this immediate area, 3 deer were shot. Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 account of hearing approximately 80 gun shots would be correct based on the significant numbers of deer removed further east of Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 position. These large numbers of deer were shot 3.8km east of Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 position. Flight footage and crew recount of events. Flight footage is recorded both by a thermal camera and by a dashboard camera at the back of the helicopter. Footage has been reviewed by pilot Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1) between 1900hrs and 1920hrs on Saturday 25 March. No people visible in the footage. GPS location of Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1) position and the flight path. 3 other people were on board the aircraft at the time, all equipped with thermal optics for detecting deer in dense vegetation. Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1) all did not see anyone in the area during the shooting operation, until a white Ute appeared, and they moved away from the vehicle. The Ute followed them to several other locations. It is protocol to leave the area when people are present during an active aerial shooting operation and move several hundred meters away. The Ute kept following the helicopter while deer were being engaged, and the pilot noticed each time and kept moving away. No one on board saw anyone else other than who was with the white Ute. Clause 4(2)(a)(i)

Clause 4(2)(a)(i)

Hazard Details

Hazard Category:

Plant and Equipment

Event Agency

Agency:

Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA

Level 1:

Biosecurity

Level 2:

NRM Biosecurity

Level 3:

NRM Biosecurity

Level 4:

NRM Biosecurity

Level 5:

NRM Biosecurity

Witnesses

Given Name(s)	Family Name	Phone Number	Person Type	
Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Non Employee	<button>Remove</button>
Clause s 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Non Employee	<button>Remove</button>
Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Non Employee	<button>Remove</button>
Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Clauses 4(1)(a), 6 (1)	Non Employee	<button>Remove</button>

Immediate Action Taken

Details of Immediate Action Taken, treatment provided and who took the Action:

☐ No Action Taken

After the report was received, immediate cessation of all aerial shooting activities until all maps and properties could be confirmed. All footage has been reviewed

Action Taken By: *

clauses 4(1)(a), 6(1)

Notifications

Supervisor *

Bradley PAGE

Reviewer *

Nathan RHODES

WHS Consultant *

Health and Safety Representative:

Risk Rating

What level of harm could eventuate?

3. Significant

How likely is this harm to eventuate?

2. Unlikely

Associated Documents and Photos

Drag documents and/or photos from your computer and drop them here to upload them.

File Name	Description
__IMPORTANT UPDATE_ aerial shooting complaints.msg	Briefing on the event from Limestone Coast Landscape Board manager of operations Mike Stevens
Re Deer cull.msg	Email from the complainant regarding the specific event