



# Wild deer free Northland

## Information for real estate agents

Photo: John Neilsen

**If you are listing a property in Northland with deer fencing or a history of deer farming, please note that:**

- all deer farms require a permit from the Department of Conservation (DOC), which is responsible for regulating deer farming under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977
- permits are free and non-transferable – new owners must apply for a new permit if they intend to farm deer
- even one deer on a deer-fenced property qualifies it as a deer farm, whether hobby or commercial.

### Why this matters for Northland

Northland is a wild deer free region. The current deer populations in the area originated from illegal releases or farm escapes – with the majority being from the latter.

Wild deer pose a major threat to the area's unique native forests and rural economy. They also:

- damage native forests through browsing and bark-stripping
- disrupt ecosystems
- cause losses to farms and horticulture by grazing on crops and pastures.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government



# What you should do when selling deer-fenced properties

## When listing a property

Ask the seller if deer have been farmed on the property and check for 2-metre-high deer fencing. This information can help market the property and inform buyers. If deer have been farmed on the property, check:

- how recent the deer farming was
- whether the property has a current DOC permit
- if the DOC Whangārei Office has been notified of the potential sale (a requirement of the permit).

## When marketing the property

If you are promoting the property as a potential deer farm, clearly state that operation is subject to a successful DOC permit application. You can use this example wording:

***This property has the potential to operate as a deer farm, pending a successful DOC permit application.***

You should also inform prospective buyers about fencing and permit requirements (available on the DOC website).

## After a successful sale

If the new owners want to farm deer, ask them to contact the Regional Deer Coordinator at the DOC Whangārei Office by calling **0800 ASK DOC** (0800 275 362) or emailing **whangarei@doc.govt.nz**.

## Find out more

- For information on wild deer free Northland, visit **nrc.govt.nz/wilddeer**.
- For information on Northland deer farming requirements, visit **doc.govt.nz/deer-farming-northland**.

**Thank you for helping us keep Northland wild deer free.**