



OIA26-0144

22 May 2026

Hayden

fyi-request-33881-bbd24124@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Hayden,

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2026 requesting information relating to wild game meat. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 27 March 2026, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) extended the time limit to respond to your request to 29 April 2026.

You requested the following:

MPI's current legal position on whether a person who takes a wild deer, pig, goat, tahr, or chamois during recreational hunting may lawfully sell the meat to a consumer, and the specific legislative provisions that govern this.

The requirements for homekill and recreational catch service providers are published on the MPI website at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/meat-game-processing-requirements/homekill-hunting-game-and-wild-meat-requirements/homekill-and-recreational-catch-requirements-for-hunters-fishers-and-animal-owners>.

Homekill and recreational catch product for human or animal consumption must not be sold or traded. Homekill and recreational catch are covered under Parts 6 and 10 of the Animal Products Act 1999, which can be found at

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/93/en/latest/#DLM33502>.

Any assessment or analysis of the food safety risks specifically associated with field-dressed and butchered wild game meat, as distinct from the food safety risks of commercially processed meat.

Any assessment of whether the current prohibition on private sale of recreationally hunted wild game meat is justified by actual food safety evidence, or whether it is a legacy regulatory position that has not been reassessed.

Homekill and recreational catch product (such as meat) is considered unregulated and therefore must not be sold or traded. This is because the product has not been subject to any:

- hygiene or processing standards or controls, or
- assessment, such as ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection.

For these reasons, no assurances can be given on its fitness for consumption, and people who use or consume it do so at their own risk.

Any analysis of the pest control co-benefits that could arise from enabling the commercial sale of recreationally hunted pest animal meat — specifically, whether enabling an economic return on wild deer and pigs would reduce the cost of pest control to the Crown and regional councils.

We have not undertaken such analysis because recreationally hunted meat is unable to be sold commercially. Because of this, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.*

The annual cost to the Crown (DOC, regional councils, OSPRI) of pest animal control for deer, pigs, goats, tahr, chamois, wallaby, and possums, for each of the past 5 financial years.

MPI provides \$24 million funding to OSPRI annually for the TBFree programme. A significant portion of this goes to vector (mainly possum) control.

The National Wallaby Eradication Programme began in 2020 and aims to stop the spread of wallabies with a long-term goal of eradication. The programme is a partnership of Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ), Federated Farmers, iwi and regional councils in wallaby-affected areas, the Department of Conservation, Forest & Bird, and Land Information New Zealand. You can read more about the programme here [Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme](#).

Jobs for Nature funding for wallaby control was for the four-year period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024 only. The Jobs for Nature funding and council contributions for national wallaby control operations for the duration of the programme are as follows:

Jobs for Nature Funding and Council Contributions 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2024

	Jobs for Nature Approved Funding	Council contribution	Total Funding	Actual Expenditure
Waikato	\$ 1,646,956	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 3,456,956	\$3,340,981
Bay of Plenty	\$ 4,498,869	\$ 848,000	\$ 5,346,869	\$5,342,936
Canterbury	\$9,242,021	\$ 320,000	\$ 9,562,021	\$9,518,825
Otago	\$ 4,094,392	\$ 205,000	\$ 4,299,392	\$4,223,815
Total	\$19,482,238	\$3,273,000	\$22,755,238	\$22,426,557

MPI has ongoing baseline funding of \$6.9 million per year for wallaby control.

The number of recreational catch service providers currently licensed under Part 5B of the Animal Products Act 1999, and the volume of wild game meat processed through these providers annually.

A public register of listed homekill and recreational catch service providers can be found at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/food-business/meat-game-processing-requirements/meat-industry-registers-and-lists>.

MPI does not hold information on the volume of wild game meat processed. This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.*

Any submissions, correspondence, or briefings received by MPI from the Game Animal Council regarding the commercialisation or sale of recreationally hunted wild game meat.

MPI does not hold any submissions from the Game Animal Council on these topics. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA – *that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.* Note that the Game Animal Council is subject to the OIA, so you can request information from them directly.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Walsh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Walsh
Director Pest Management