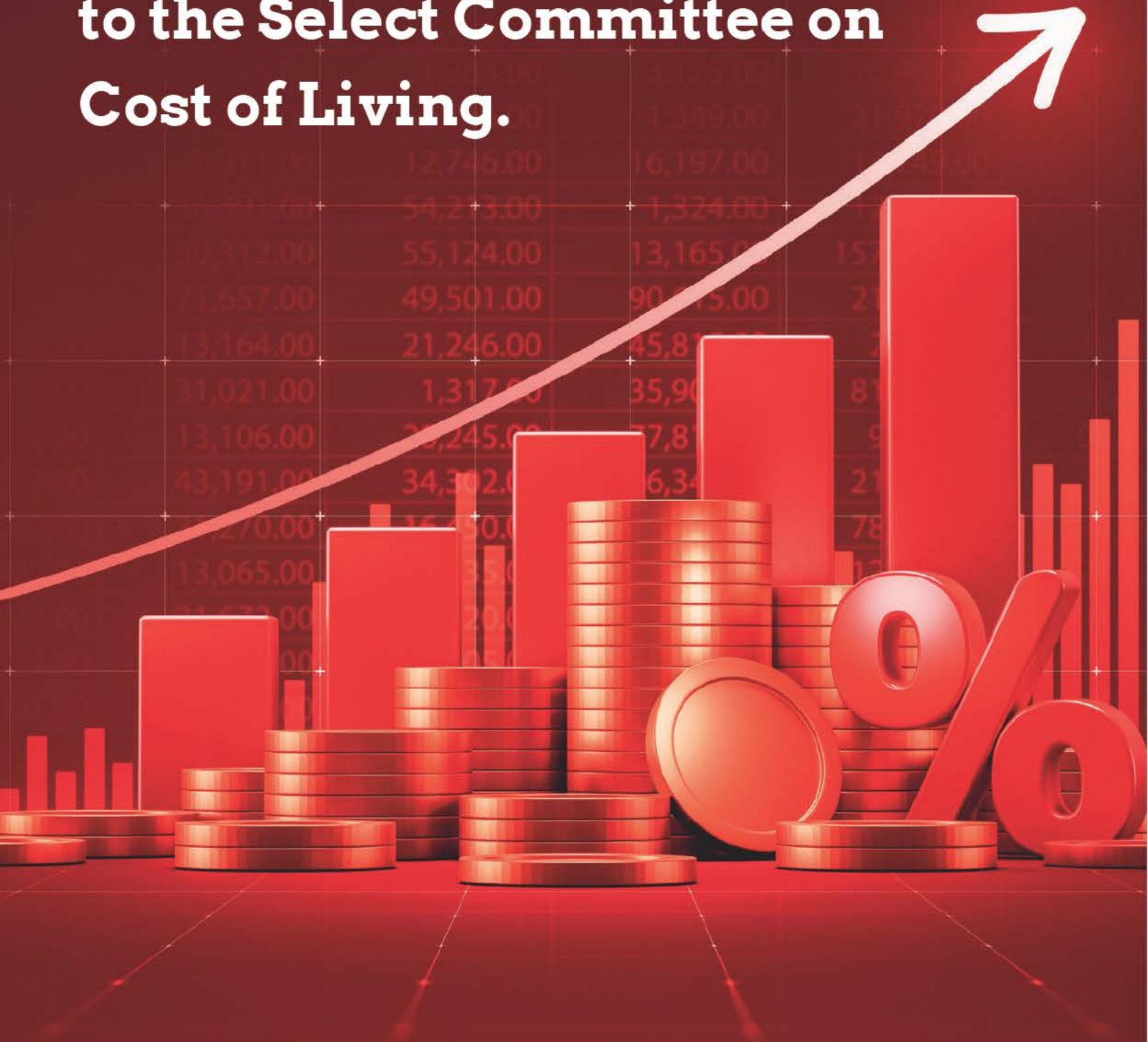


The Australian Deer Association's submission to the Select Committee on Cost of Living.





Select Committee on Cost of Living

The Australian Deer Association's submission will focus on the term of reference, (i.e) any other related matter.

Who we are and what we do

The Australian Deer Association (ADA) was established in 1959; a national organisation considered the subject matter expert on deer. Since its inception, the ADA has advocated for the sound management of wild deer and public land access for hunting. As a member-based not-for-profit association with approaching ten thousand members, the ADA also funds deer research and provides education opportunities around Australia.

Cost of living pressure on household budgets

Over the 12 months to December 2022, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for meat and seafood has risen by 8.2%¹, with fuel prices also 13.2% higher than 12 months ago², increasing pressure on household budgets. As a result, families will be forced to adjust their activities and consolidate them where possible.

Popularity and benefits of recreational deer hunting

Recreational deer hunting is a popular outdoor activity; for example, in Victoria, 49,857 recreational deer hunters harvested 157,300 wild deer in 2021, despite COVID-19 restrictions limiting travel³. Venison has high levels of amino acids and is a rich source of iron, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, and zinc⁴. Recreational deer hunters enjoy higher well-being than the general population; it also provides a pathway to nature connection, self-efficacy, social networks, physical activity, and nutrition⁵.

A harvested sambar deer can provide approximately 50kg of venison, equating to 500 standard servings.

Addressing the cost-of-living pressure

By acknowledging the value that wild deer in Australia provide both as a means of household protein and a social benefit, state legislation will be better influenced to enable greater access to public land for recreational deer hunting, allowing more citizens to enjoy higher well-being whilst consuming a healthy, wild, sustainable food source and easing their cost of living.

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>

² <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/consumer-price-index-australia/latest-release>

³ Estimates of the 2021 deer harvest in Victoria – Game Management Authority 2022

⁴ <https://extension.psu.edu/venison-is-it-for-you#:~:text=Venison%20is%20high%20in%20essential,and%20saturated%20fat%20protein%20choices.>

⁵ Economic and social impacts of recreational hunting and shooting – Department of Health 2019





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