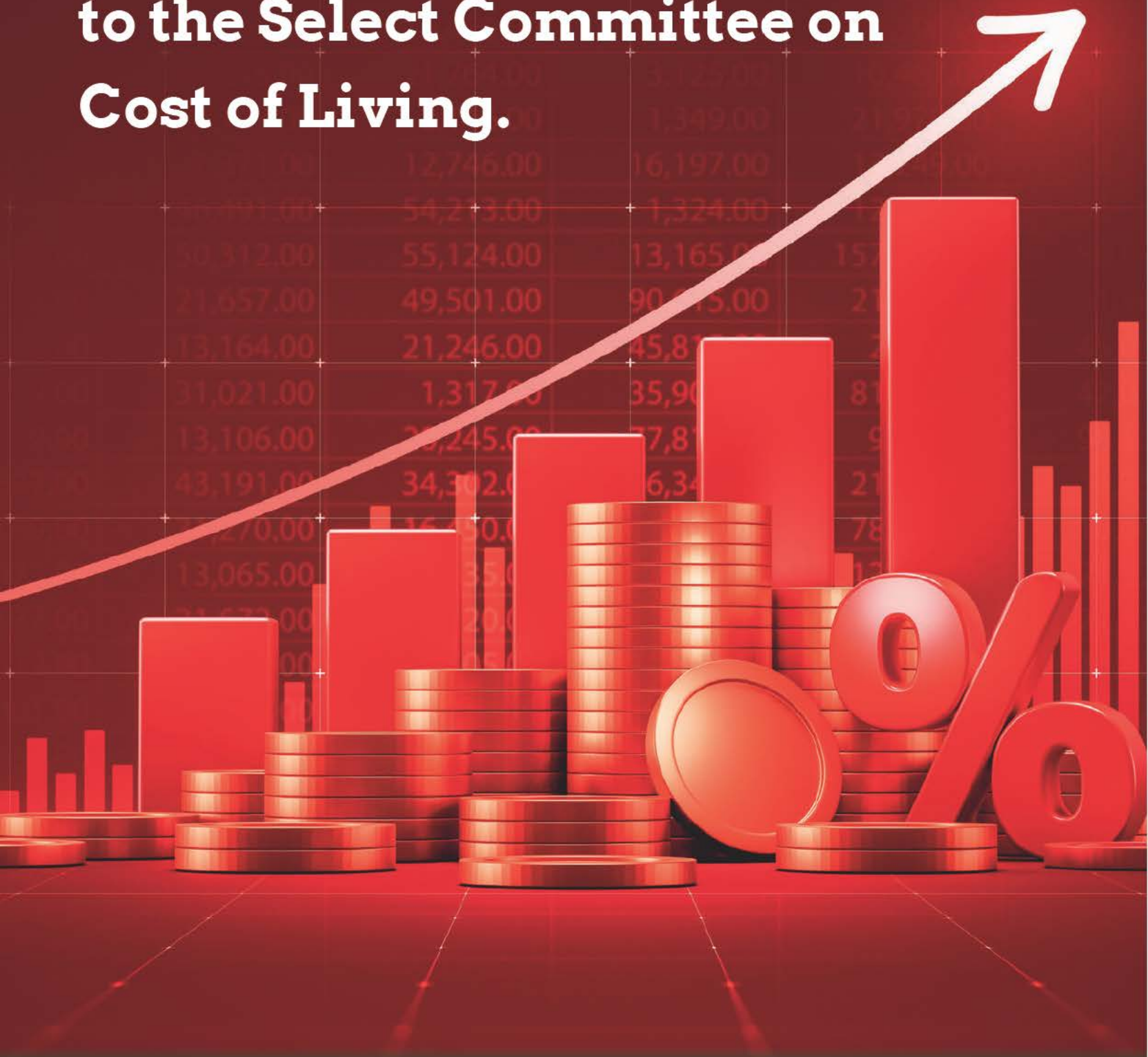


# **The Australian Deer Association's submission to the Select Committee on Cost of Living.**





# 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%<sup>1</sup>, with fuel prices also 13.2% higher than 12 months ago<sup>2</sup>, 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 travel<sup>3</sup>. Venison has high levels of amino acids and is a rich source of iron, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, and zinc<sup>4</sup>. 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 nutrition<sup>5</sup>.

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.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> Estimates of the 2021 deer harvest in Victoria – Game Management Authority 2022

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

<sup>5</sup> Economic and social impacts of recreational hunting and shooting – Department of Health 2019





Australian Deer Association Inc.

Sean Kilkenny

W: [www.austdeer.com.au](http://www.austdeer.com.au)