

Wildlife Management Plan for the Great Barrier Reef Airport at Hamilton Island

Dr Graham Hall, Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries and Water, and

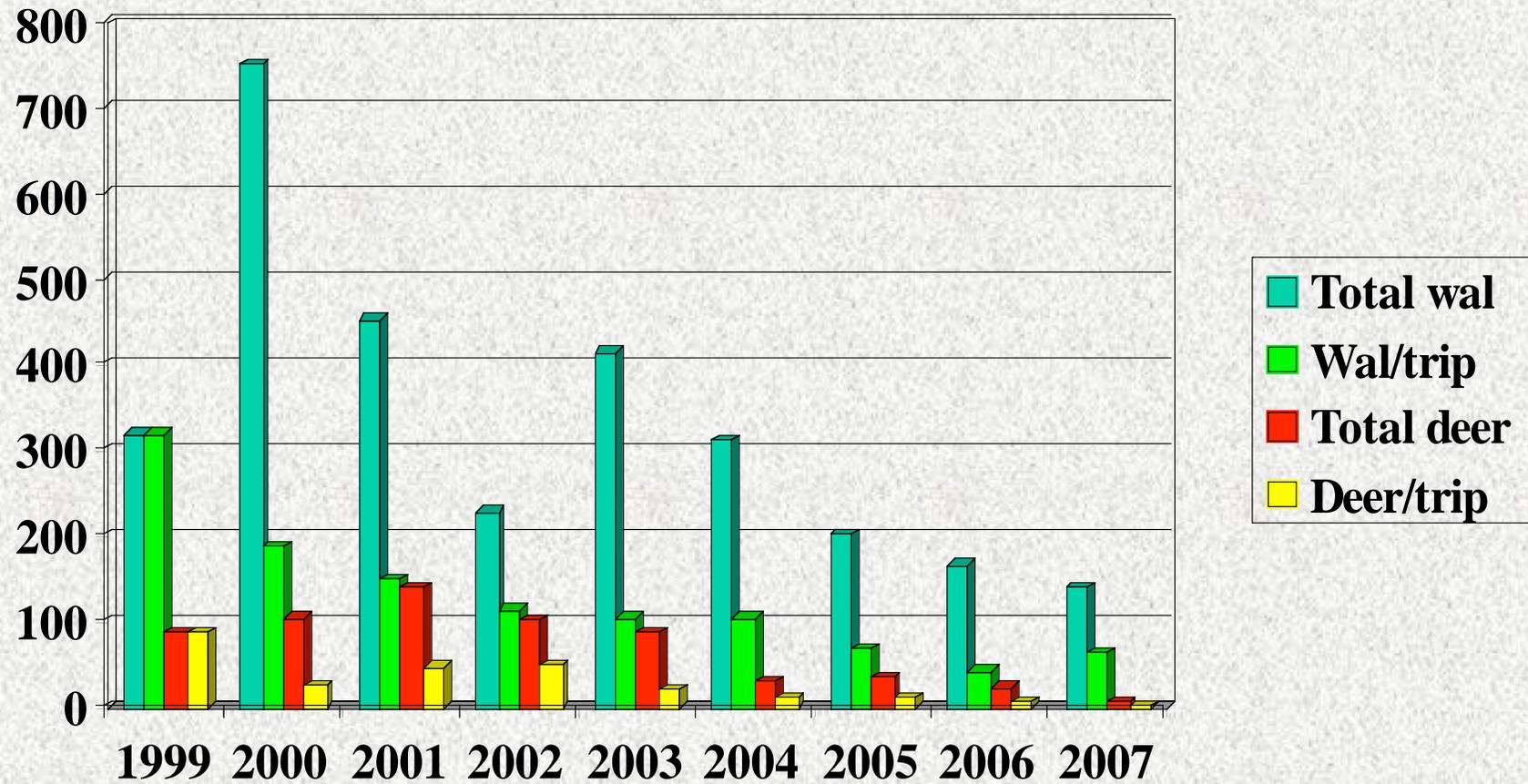
Dale Criss, Hamilton Island Ltd



History

- Keith Williams and Ansett
- 1984 – first Ansett jet service
- 1994 – GBRA-HI licensed by CASA
- 1999 – first Qantas 737 service
- 1999 – Wildlife Management Plan for HI
- 2001 – HIE purchases GBRA
- 2005 – Virgin Blue commences services
- 2006 – GBRA Wildlife Management Plan

Yearly harvest of wallabies and deer at Hamilton Island



Strike rates per 10,000 movements by airport

Airport	Strikes recorded by ATSB	Strike rate/10,000 movements
<i>Northern</i>		
Mackay	13	3.56
Townsville	24	3.66
Cairns	36	3.48
<i>Southern</i>		
Canberra	22	1.89
Adelaide	43	3.87
Melbourne	42	2.37

- Birdstrikes *per se* are an Australia-wide phenomenon.
- Birdstrike rate at northern airports peaked during February, May and October with a low during August. Birdstrikes are most frequent between 0700 – 1100 hours and again between 1900-2100 hours.
- Strike data from Great Barrier Reef Airport at Hamilton Island between May 2000 and June 2006 indicate that most wildlife was struck between April and July (59%), and February was the only month not to record a strike. Strikes occurred between 0000 and 1700 hours.

Most struck wildlife in Australia, 1991 – 2001. Only species known to occur on Hamilton Island have been included. (*ATSB 2003)

Species	Strikes recorded	Australian Hazard ranking*	Strikes recorded on HI
Ibis	39	2	-
Duck	52	3	-
Galah	154	5	-
Plover	143	14	4
Curlew	31	15	-
Peewee	18	16	8
Cockatoos	14	-	3
Swallow	66	-	14
Corvids	9	-	-
Tern	na	-	1
Kite	na	-	1
Kookaburra	na	-	1
Heron	na	-	1
Cuckoo-shrike	na	-	1
Seagull	na	-	1
Bats	72	4	5
Deer	na	-	-
Wallabies	na	-	-
Brush-tail possum	na	-	-
Goanna	na	-	1

The airport management plan describes a system (ATSB 2003) for objectively managing wildlife hazards. Five assessment categories, each with a list of sub-categories to be evaluated, are used to indicate the performance of the airport wildlife hazard management plan.

These categories are:

Category 1 Management functions related to wildlife hazards at or in the vicinity of the airport.

Category 2 Bird control at or in the vicinity of the airport.

Category 3 Mammal control at or in the vicinity of the airport.

Category 4 Management of wildlife habitat and food sources on airport property.

Category 5 Land uses and food sources off-airport that may impact on wildlife hazards on-airport.

Issue	Actions	Sulphur-crested cockatoos.	Brush-tailed possums	Agile wallabies	Crow	Currawong	Flying fox	Kookaburra	Pacific black duck	Rainbow lorikeet / scaly-breasted	Briquet Shrikes
Encourage living with wildlife in a safe and sustainable manner	Promote value of native wildlife through education, brochures, talks etc... Information in guest rooms on issues of attracting and feeding wildlife.	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Removal of food attractants to wildlife.	All inductions for staff include quickly clearing tables.	●	●		●	●		●		●	
Addresses issues of harassment, damage to buildings, removal of property, bird faeces on furniture and infrastructure.	Ensure that tables are cleared during dining periods	●	●		●	●		●			
	Education program for staff and guests on problems caused by feeding wildlife.	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	
	Install clear “no feeding wildlife” signs in key areas	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	
	Use covers over food at dining tables	●	●		●	●		●	●	●	
	Use rubbish bins with latched lids preventing wildlife accessing food.	●	●		●	●		●			
Manage health issues and encourage problem species to relocate away from the resort.	Construct a raptor nesting pole as per specification	●			●	●				●	
	Remove diseased birds	●				●		●	●	●	
	Cover swimming pools where possible							●			
	Eradicate population			●							
	Block holes where native animals can gain access to ceilings and roof cavities.		●								●
Building design to limit potential for damage caused by wildlife.	Use materials that are not easily damaged by wildlife.	●	●		●	●				●	
Removal of property by wildlife.	Install automatic closing doors	●	●		●	●		●			●
	Replace insect mesh with security mesh.	●	●		●	●		●		●	●
	Inform guests and staff to keep doors and windows closed that allow wildlife into buildings	●	●		●	●		●		●	●
Damage to island ecology	Eradicate population			●							
	Remove problem animals with reduced take over a two year period.		●								

