

## Media release

Friday, 21 October, 2016

### Three men fined for exceeding duck bag limit

Three men have been found guilty in Shepparton Magistrates Court this week for exceeding the bag limit for game ducks during the 2016 duck season.

The men were ordered to pay a combined total of \$2500 and were all placed on 12 month good behaviour bonds after pleading guilty to exceeding the limit.

The men had been hunting late in the season at Green Lake Reserve, near Corop, when Authorised Officers discovered one of them had shot 21 ducks, while the others had six each.

The bag limit for 2016 was set at eight ducks on opening day only and four for every other day during the season.

In court, the hunters conceded they had known about the reduced bag limit but had “got carried away”.

Game Management Authority (GMA) Chief Executive Officer Greg Hyams said the 2016 bag limit was reduced due to dry conditions and low duck abundance.

“The 2016 duck season bag limit was reduced from 10 birds per day due to the dry conditions reducing habitat and duck numbers,” Mr Hyams said.

“The behaviour of these hunters, particularly the man who took 21 ducks, is totally unacceptable and shows a lack of regard for the law, sustainable hunting and other hunters.”

“Bag limits are set to ensure that the duck harvest remains sustainable. It’s important hunters adhere to bag limits so that there will be ducks to hunt in the future. This is particularly so when the population is reduced during dry conditions.”

On further investigation, officers discovered five more ducks at the hunters’ camp with their wings removed, making it difficult to identify whether they were a protected species.

Mr Hyams said there are heavy penalties for people caught exceeding bag limits or not hunting responsibly.

“Hunters caught breaking the law can have their Game and Firearms Licences cancelled and the courts can impose fines, forfeit equipment and even impose terms of imprisonment,” Mr Hyams said.

Hunters and members of the public can report suspected illegal hunting by calling 136 186 or reporting it via the online reporting form on the GMA’s website [www.gma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au)

For more information on game hunting in Victoria, visit [www.gma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au)

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