

Media release

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Hunters fined \$1800 and equipment to be destroyed

Three men from Sydney have been found guilty at the Myrtleford Magistrates Court for possessing a loaded firearm on a public road, and unsecured spotlighting equipment in recognised deer habitat near Myrtleford.

Hunters were seen by Police and GMA officers driving along Buffalo River Road shining a spotlight into the river flats, one of the men was standing on the tray of the vehicle with a loaded high powered rifle.

They were stopped and their vehicle searched, finding a further three firearms and other hunting equipment, including ammunition, knives and powerful spotlights.

Two of the men received \$750 fines, plus two of the firearms and their equipment were forfeited to be destroyed.

The third man was ordered to pay \$1800 to the Myrtleford CFA, and his hunting equipment was forfeited to be destroyed.

Game Management Authority (GMA) Director Simon Toop said GMA officers and Victoria Police will continue to conduct operations targeting illegal spotlighting from public roads and on public land.

Possession of unsecured spotlights and firearms in recognised deer habitat 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise is an offence under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012.

Mr Toop said illegal hunting can put people and wildlife at risk, and damages the reputation of law-abiding hunters.

“Hunters are generally a law-abiding group but there are some who choose to do the wrong thing, and those who choose to break the law can be prosecuted, have their equipment confiscated and lose their game and firearms licences.

“I strongly encourage hunters and the general public to report any illegal hunting to the GMA by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or contact the Victoria Police.”

For more information on game hunting in Victoria and to download deer hunting maps please visit www.gma.vic.gov.au

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