

Media release

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Victoria registers 50,000th hunter

Victoria has just registered its 50,000th licensed game hunter.

Since 2001, there has been a 68 percent increase in the number of deer, duck, and quail hunters.

GMA Chief Executive Officer Greg Hyams said deer hunting has seen the biggest growth, with more than 2,000 Victorians signing up to hunt the six introduced species since July this year.

“Of the 50,000 hunters now registered, 34,321 are licensed to hunt deer, 25,753 can hunt ducks and 28,693 can hunt quail,” he said.

Many of the state’s hunters come from the regions, with three Gippsland postcodes topping the list of most licences held (Traralgon, Bairnsdale and Moe, respectively), followed by Werribee and Wodonga.

“Recreational hunting contributes approximately \$439 million to the Victorian economy, with much of that spent on food, accommodation and other services in country towns around the state,” Mr Hyams said.

The Victorian Government devoted \$5.33 million in the 2016/17 Budget to support safe, responsible and sustainable hunting.

The funding will support the delivery of the soon-to-be-released sustainable hunting action plan, which will see government agencies working with hunters to promote responsible hunting and ensure game hunting remains a sustainable recreation for future generations.

The Government is also funding firearm safety courses, educating hunters and shooters about the responsible and safe storage, handling and usage of firearms.

Mr Hyams said hunting brings a large numbers of visitors to regional Victoria and generates significant economic activity.

“We will continue to take a responsible, well managed approach to ensure that hunting remains a safe and sustainable recreation for future generations.”

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