

Media Release

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Illegal spotlight on Dargo deer

A recent operation conducted by Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) Wildlife Officers and Game Management Authority Compliance Officers resulted in a successful prosecution for illegal spotlighting near Dargo.

DEPI Compliance Officer, Craig Oldis said: “A 32-year old Briagolong man was charged under the *Wildlife Act 1975* with possessing a spotlight and firearm in a recognised deer habitat area after sunset and before sunrise, and also with unsecured firearms and for ammunition offences.”

“The accused was found guilty on all charges, fined a total of \$1000, ordered to pay departmental legal costs and had his firearms licence suspended,” Mr Oldis said.

Compliance Manager with the newly-formed Game Management Authority, Geoff Morsby said: “People should remember that when entering recognised deer habitat they must ensure any firearms and magazines are unloaded and secured separately in a vehicle, case or container and that any spotlight that is in or on the vehicle is not in use.”

“If you are unsure as to the requirements of the carriage and use of firearms while in recognised deer habitat, you can contact the Victorian Game Management Authority on 136 186.”

“Spotlighting for deer at night is illegal, because it’s unsafe and puts the public at risk. It also takes away opportunities for law-abiding hunters who do the right thing.”

“The broader community and deer hunters should not tolerate this sort of illegal hunting activity. Please report any suspicious behaviour to the DEPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.”

DEPI’s services and programs will be delivered through partnerships with stakeholders and the community to ensure better environmental protection and more productive landscapes.