

Media release

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015

Joint deer hunting compliance operation targets Dargo

Game Management Authority (GMA) officers and Victoria Police combined their efforts last weekend to conduct several deer hunting compliance operations in Gippsland.

GMA Acting Chief Executive Officer Simon Toop, said the operations included a road block at Dargo on the Friday night and roving patrols targeting deer hunters in the areas around Dargo, Emu Flat, Wongungara, Dargo River and the upper and lower Dargo roads.

“Over the two days, 40 people were spoken to, 20 vehicles were checked and two firearms were seized by Victoria Police,” Mr Toop said.

“Four hunters were interviewed for a range of issues, including firearm and licencing offences, the illegal possession of a firearm and spotlight in deer habitat during a prohibited time.

“Another incident is still under investigation by the GMA that includes improperly registered breeds of hound.”

Mr Toop said hunters are generally a law-abiding group but there are some who choose to do the wrong thing.

“Those who choose to break the law can be prosecuted, have their equipment including vehicles and firearms confiscated and lose their Game and Firearms Licences,” he said.

“Illegal hunting and irresponsible behavior can put people and wildlife at risk. It is vital to the future of hunting that hunters act safely and responsibly at all times.”

The GMA and Victoria Police will continue to conduct routine patrols and targeted operations in deer hunting areas throughout the state.

GMA strongly encourages hunters and the broader public to report suspected illegal hunting activity by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or the Victoria Police.

For more information on game hunting in Victoria, visit www.gma.vic.gov.au

Please note images available on request.

Media contact: Alan Everett 0409 255 140