

Media release

Tuesday, 28 February, 2016

Don't jump the gun ahead of duck and quail seasons

A major compliance operation targeting illegal quail and duck hunting in Victoria's North West was conducted over the weekend to ensure people were not hunting outside the prescribed open seasons.

The Game Management Authority (GMA) and Victoria Police conducted the operation, focusing on key hunting locations around Quambatook, Wycheproof, Charlton and Boort.

GMA Chief Executive Officer Greg Hyams said Victoria Police and GMA officers worked together to patrol the area and set up road blocks in strategic locations to catch any suspected illegal hunters.

"Twenty-six vehicles were stopped, the occupants of a further six vehicles were spoken to and a number vehicles were searched", My Hyams said.

"In total, over eighty people were spoken to over the two days, including several groups of hunters who were scouting for good hunting locations for when the quail and duck seasons open."

It was pleasing that no hunting offences were detected, however, a small number of vehicle registration and traffic offences are being investigated by Victoria Police.

"The 2017 duck season will commence on 18 March 2017 and close on 12 June 2017. The 2017 Stubble Quail season opens on Saturday 1 April and closes on Friday 30 June 2017."

"These closed seasons apply to all public and private land and are in place to ensure that hunting remains sustainable and that game species are not hunted during breeding, moulting or other periods of vulnerability."

Mr Hyams said hunting out of the prescribed season is illegal and will not be tolerated.

"Illegal hunting and irresponsible behaviour damages the reputation of all who participate in hunting, can put people and wildlife at risk and is detrimental to the sustainability of Victoria's game resources."

"Hunters are generally a law-abiding group. Unfortunately there are some who choose to do the wrong thing making patrols such as these necessary."

"Those who choose to break the law will be prosecuted, may have their equipment confiscated and may lose their Game and Firearms Licences."

"The GMA provides information on when, where and how to hunt legally in Victoria, including via the Game Hunting Victoria phone app, the newly released Game Hunting in Victoria Manual and the GMA website, so there's no excuse not to know the game hunting laws."

GMA and Victoria Police will continue to conduct operations targeting illegal quail and duck hunting across the state.

The GMA strongly encourages hunters and the broader public to report any suspected illegal hunting activity to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or via the GMA website at www.gma.vic.gov.au

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