

Media release

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Illegal hunters' firearm and equipment to be destroyed

A father and son have been found guilty at the Seymour Magistrates Court for possessing an unsecured firearm and spot-lighting equipment in recognised deer habitat near Eildon.

Game Management Authority (GMA) Chief Executive Officer Greg Hyams said the father and son were seen by Police and Game Management Authority Officers driving along Eildon-Jamieson Road shining a torch into bushland.

"They were stopped and their vehicle searched, finding a loaded rifle in the rear of the vehicle," Mr Hyams said.

"Both men received 12 month good behaviour bonds, plus the firearm and equipment were forfeited by the court to be destroyed.

"The father also plead guilty to firearms offences relating to the safekeeping of firearms and ammunition while in transit."

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 Hyams said GMA officers and Victoria Police will continue to conduct operations targeting illegal spotlighting from public roads and on public land.

"Illegal hunting can put people and wildlife at risk and damages the reputation of hunting.

"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 by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or contact the Victoria Police."

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

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