





Annual Report 2025 - 26

Game Management Authority

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, including their connection to country and culture through hunting, and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

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For more information about Game Management Authority go to www.gma.vic.gov.au

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Foreword

The 2025–26 financial year has been a significant period of strategic development for the Game Management Authority (GMA). We have continued to strengthen the foundations of a modern, evidence-based regulator while preparing for an important new chapter in the regulation and management of hunting in Victoria.

The development of legislation to establish Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria and define its roles and responsibilities marks a major milestone. The new entity will bring together the functions of the GMA and the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA), with the aim of encouraging more Victorians to enjoy the outdoors while supporting safe, sustainable and responsible recreational hunting, fishing and boating.

The GMA recognises the significance of this reform and is committed to supporting the Government and our workforce through the transition. A key priority is ensuring that our regulatory knowledge, systems, capabilities, research and institutional experience are effectively transferred, providing the new entity with strong foundations for trusted and effective regulation.

Throughout the year, the Board has maintained a strong focus on governance, risk management, organisational capability and performance. Our strategic priorities have remained clear: supporting sustainable and responsible game hunting, addressing animal welfare outcomes, strengthening compliance, and ensuring that the GMA's decisions and advice are informed by the best available science and information.

Our research program has continued to strengthen the evidence base for game management. A key achievement has been the continued implementation and refinement of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) for game ducks. The first-year results demonstrated that the bag-limit model performed well, with the 2025 harvest within 1.8 per cent of the seasonal harvest quota. Ongoing review of the model and monitoring program will enable further refinement as additional data becomes available.

Annual abundance and harvest monitoring for game ducks and Stubble Quail, together with research into movement, habitat use and survivorship, is providing increasingly valuable insight into game species and their responses to environmental conditions.

During the year, the GMA and Deakin University progressed research into game ducks, in the largest study of duck movement and survivorship undertaken in Australia. The GMA also commenced a new study into the spatial ecology of Stubble Quail, using GPS technology to better understand their movement, habitat use and behaviour.

These programs highlight the importance of maintaining a strong connection between research, regulation and policy. The evidence generated will strengthen our understanding of population dynamics, distribution and hunting impacts, supporting more informed decision-making over time.

The GMA's compliance and intelligence capability also remains central to our regulatory framework. Strategic investment in intelligence, risk assessment and partnerships with Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, government agencies and other stakeholders has enabled the GMA to direct resources towards the greatest risks and harms. This intelligence-led approach supports effective enforcement while providing a clearer understanding of the regulatory environment in which game hunting occurs.

The GMA also recognises the importance of hunter education, with the rollout of new education modules for hunters. All new and renewing gamebird hunters must now complete modules covering hunting laws, ethics, cultural awareness, and practical safety prior to hunting in Victoria. These modules provide a basis for more informed and responsible hunters.

We value our constructive relationships with Traditional Owners, hunters and hunting organisations, landholders, public land managers, research organisations and community groups. These relationships are integral to the effective regulation of game hunting in Victoria, and I extend my appreciation to all of the people who have contributed to the GMA's research, education and compliance activities throughout the year. Maintaining strong relationships will be particularly important as the GMA transitions to Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria.

I also thank all of the GMA's Board Directors for their continued commitment, stewardship and strategic leadership throughout the year. Their focus on governance, accountability, risk and organisational performance has helped position the GMA strongly for the transition ahead.

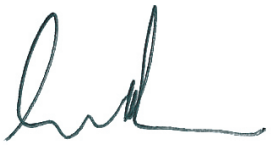
In particular, I acknowledge and thank outgoing Board Directors Corrie Goodwin and Owen Cavanough for their years of service to the GMA. Both have made significant contributions to the GMA's governance and strategic direction. Corrie's extensive experience in agriculture, industry and regulatory reform, and Owen's practical experience in sustainable hunting, conservation, infrastructure and community engagement, have brought valuable perspectives to the Board.

I also thank Graeme Ford, CEO, the executive team and all GMA staff for their professionalism, dedication and commitment throughout the year.

The GMA can look back on 2025–26 with confidence in the progress it has made. We have strengthened our regulatory capability, expanded the evidence base supporting game management and contributed to significant reform. These achievements provide a strong foundation for the next phase of regulation and for continued responsible game hunting in Victoria.

Responsible Body Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* and section 20 of the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*, I am pleased to present the Game Management Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2026.



Chris Rose
Chairperson

23 October 2026

CEO Report

The 2025–26 financial year has been one of strong operational delivery for the Game Management Authority (GMA). Across Victoria, our people have continued to demonstrate professionalism, capability and commitment in regulating game hunting and supporting the effective implementation of government policy.

Our work has focused on compliance and enforcement, education and engagement, and building the scientific evidence needed to support sound regulatory decisions.

Compliance and intelligence operations were a significant focus throughout the year. The GMA conducted 25 Authority-led operations and supported or participated in a further 21 multi-agency operations. Our teams generated 458 information reports, opened 94 investigations, concluded 172 investigations and executed four warrants.

This work was underpinned by ongoing intelligence collection and analysis, as well as close collaboration with Victoria Police, Parks Victoria and other government agencies. These partnerships have strengthened our ability to identify and respond to risks and target our regulatory resources where they can have the greatest impact.

Effective regulation extends beyond enforcement. Education and engagement remain essential to helping hunters, landholders and communities understand their responsibilities and make informed decisions. Throughout the year, GMA staff continued to work directly with these groups, attending meetings, expos and community events, to promote compliance with hunting laws and encourage responsible behaviour.

As part of the Victorian Government's commitment to introduce mandatory education for gamebird hunters, the GMA developed and published three new education modules: Hunting Essentials, Duck Hunting and Quail Hunting. The modules, together with the associated gamebird hunting knowledge tests, were made available through the GMA's online Learning Management System.

Cultural heritage awareness was an important component of this work. The GMA developed dedicated training and testing material and partnered with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's First Peoples – State Relations and the Victoria Aboriginal Heritage Council to produce an On Country educational video focused on game hunting and cultural awareness.

Research and science have also remained central to our regulatory work throughout 2025-26. The GMA continues to commit substantial funding and cash reserves to research programs that improve understanding of game species, hunting activity, and the environmental factors that influence game populations.

A significant focus has been the continued implementation and refinement of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) for game ducks. The GMA has operated and refined the monitoring and modelling framework that underpins AHM, supported by independent technical expertise. Our annual monitoring program, together with harvest, hunter effort and movement data, is contributing to increasingly robust long-term datasets that will improve our understanding of population trends and support future regulatory decisions.

During the year, the GMA also commissioned research into the effectiveness of the REDUCE Wounding information and education campaign, the population genetics of Victoria's game ducks and the social influences on waterfowl wounding during hunting.

We continued to support the implementation of the Victorian Government's reforms to gamebird hunting, including measures to reduce waterfowl wounding, which are increasingly informed by research, mandatory education requirements for all gamebird hunters and non-toxic shot requirements for hunting Stubble Quail. Effective implementation of these reforms requires clear communication, engagement and compliance monitoring, and our staff have worked closely with hunters, industry representatives, government agencies and other stakeholders to support their understanding and application.

Deer hunting research has also remained a focus, including taking advantage of the opportunity to measure the impact of recreational hunting on deer abundance in the newly opened to hunting Snowy River and Errinundra national parks.

I am particularly proud of the professionalism and adaptability demonstrated by GMA staff during a year of substantial operational demand and organisational change. Our people have continued to deliver frontline regulation while preparing for the future of game management in Victoria.

I thank the Board for its guidance and support throughout the year. I also acknowledge the contribution of our enforcement partners, Traditional Owners, land managers, research organisations, hunting organisations and community stakeholders.

Most importantly, I thank all GMA staff for their dedication, resilience and commitment. Their work has strengthened compliance, expanded our scientific knowledge and supported better outcomes for hunters, communities, animal welfare and the environment.

As the GMA moves into its next chapter, the capability, knowledge and experience developed by our people will provide an important foundation for the continued delivery of safe, sustainable and responsible hunting in Victoria.



Graeme Ford
Chief Executive Officer

About the Game Management Authority

The Game Management Authority (GMA) is a statutory authority responsible for the regulation of game hunting in Victoria.

The GMA was established on 1 July 2014 to facilitate the effective regulation of Victoria's game resources and game hunting across the state. The GMA's functions are outlined in the *Game Management Authority Act 2014* (the Act).

The responsible Ministers during the 2025-26 reporting period were:

- The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP, Minister for Outdoor Recreation, 2 October 2023 – 15 April 2026
- The Hon. Enver Erdogan MP, Minister for Outdoor Recreation, 15 April 2026 – current.

The GMA is responsible for:

- issuing Game Licences, authorities and permits
- managing open and closed seasons for game species
- enforcing game hunting laws and taking action against those who do not hunt legally
- educating and informing hunters on how to hunt legally in Victoria.

The GMA also has an important advisory role in the management of natural resources across Victoria including:

- the sustainable harvest of game species
- the humane treatment of animals that are hunted and used in game hunting
- minimising any negative impacts on non-game wildlife, including protected and threatened species
- the conservation of wildlife habitats
- the environmental, social and economic impacts of game hunting and management.

Our vision

Game hunting in Victoria is a well-regulated, evidence-based and sustainable activity that is informed by science and conducted responsibly.

Our purpose

Through engagement with stakeholders and targeted research, the GMA understands the potential harms associated with game hunting. We regulate through education and enforcement to reduce the incidence and impacts of high-risk harms and provide authoritative advice on game hunting.

Our 5-year goals

Goal 1: Our advice and decisions are based on the best available science and information.

The outcome of achieving this goal is:

- We are a trusted regulatory authority
- Stakeholders have confidence in our work
- Game hunting does not threaten the sustainability of native species.

Goal 2: Our engagement, education and testing programs ensure game hunters have the knowledge and proficiency to hunt ethically and responsibly.

The outcome of achieving this goal is:

- Education programs raise the understanding of laws and responsible hunting practices
- Animal welfare outcomes are improved as wounding in game hunting is reduced
- Environmental outcomes are improved
- Cultural heritage sites are protected and respected
- Hunters understand that they are accountable for hunting ethically and responsibly.

Goal 3: Our compliance program is informed by intelligence, supported by research and education programs, and is targeted to minimise the greatest harms to the community.

The outcome of achieving this goal is:

- Enforcement and compliance activities are targeted and risk-based
- We have a constructive relationship with hunters and community stakeholders
- The incidence of high-risk harm is reduced
- Communities impacted by inappropriate or illegal hunting have confidence in our enforcement effectiveness
- Cooperation with other agencies.

Goal 4: Our workplace is inclusive, safe, supportive and innovative, enabling us to attract and retain the best people and achieve the best outcomes.

The outcome of achieving this goal is:

- A safety culture exists
- Staff are trusted, capable and respected
- Staff are engaged and satisfied
- Our workforce supports diversity, representation, and equity.

Our values

Our work is made stronger by the values that guide it:

Safety: We take responsibility for our own safety and wellbeing and that of our colleagues.

Integrity: We act with respect, impartiality and transparency.

Accountability: We are accountable for our own work, performance, decisions and actions.

Excellence: We pursue professional excellence, always.

Teamwork: We value diversity, we are inclusive and we collaborate to achieve positive outcomes.

Functions of the GMA

The functions of the GMA are:

a) to perform the regulatory, investigative and disciplinary functions conferred on the GMA by or under the Act or any relevant law

b) to administer the scheme for issuing game licences under the *Wildlife Act 1975* in relation to hunting, taking or destroying game

c) to promote and monitor compliance with this Act or any relevant law in relation to game hunting

d) to investigate compliance with this Act and any relevant law in relation to game hunting

e) to develop operational plans and procedures addressing:

   (i) the sustainable hunting of game animals

   (ii) the humane treatment of animals that are hunted or used in hunting

   (iii) strategies to minimise any negative impact on non-game wildlife, including protected and threatened wildlife

   (iv) the conservation of wildlife habitats

f) to work with public land managers to improve the management of public land and facilities on public land where hunting is permitted

g) to promote sustainability and responsibility in game hunting

h) to monitor, conduct research and analyse the environmental, social and economic impacts of game hunting and game management

i) to make recommendations to relevant Ministers in relation to:

   (i) game hunting and game management

   (ii) the control of pest animals

   (iii) declaring public land open or closed to game hunting, open and closed seasons and bag limits

   (iv) the management of public and private land as it relates to game and their habitat.

Source: extract from the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*

Powers of the GMA

The GMA has the powers necessary to exercise and perform its functions under its governing Act or any other Act. The GMA is also subject to any written directions provided by the Minister.

Partner agencies

The GMA works with partner agencies, including Parks Victoria (PV), the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR), the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and Victoria Police to ensure that game hunting is sustainable, safe and humane.

Stakeholders

Game hunting has broad social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts on the Victorian community.

The GMA has diverse stakeholder relationships and is often required to develop workable solutions with stakeholders that sit at opposite ends of the debate of supporting or opposing the hunting of native and non-native game species.

The GMA understands the importance of listening to stakeholders to ensure game hunting is managed sustainably and responsibly. Building trusted, engaged and respectful relationships is essential.

The GMA's primary stakeholder is the Minister for Outdoor Recreation. The GMA also works with a broad range of stakeholders including state and federal government agencies and other public-sector entities, Game Licence holders, hunting, environment, and animal welfare interest groups, Traditional Owners and the Victorian community.

Engagement with stakeholders is through face-to-face meetings and workshops, attendance at shows, expos and demonstration days, interactions in the field, through digital and traditional communication channels and written consultation.

Governance

The GMA Board

The GMA Board (the Board) is the governing body of the GMA and is accountable to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation for the exercise of its functions. The Board's role is to ensure that the GMA fulfils its functions effectively and complies with its governance framework.

The Board provides strategic leadership and oversees the GMA's functions prescribed under section 6 of the Act, as amended from time to time.

This includes:

- a strategic and business planning role
- a performance monitoring and reporting role
- a stewardship role
- reviewing, approving, and monitoring the GMA's risk management systems, including internal controls
- approving the annual report and financial statements
- monitoring corporate governance requirements of the GMA, including formation of Board committees
- establishing the GMA's strategic plan and monitoring its performance against the plan
- approving and reviewing succession plans
- selecting, appointing, and terminating, as necessary, the external and internal auditors
- monitoring and guiding the culture of the GMA.

Membership of the Board

Under the Act, the Board must consist of not less than five members and not more than nine members appointed by the Minister. Members of the Board are appointed for not more than a period of three years but may be reappointed.

Meeting attendance

Board meetings are held regularly throughout the year as necessary for the Board to discharge its obligations.

The following table summarises attendance of Directors at Board meetings:

	Attended	Eligible to attend
Chris Rose (Chairperson)	7	7
Corrie Goodwin (Deputy Chairperson)	6	7
Owen Cavanough	6	7
Dr Amanda Errington	7	7
Kylie Warne	7	7
Luke Wilson	7	7
Dr Danielle Auldist	7	7

Board committees

The Board has three committees: the Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC), Ethics, Welfare and Science Committee (EWSC) and the People and Partnerships Committee (PPC).

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The following table summarises the ARMC membership and Director attendance for 2025-26:

	Attended	Eligible to attend
Corrie Goodwin (Chairperson)	5	5
Kylie Warne	4	5
Luke Wilson	5	5
Sue Leibish (Independent member)	4	5

The ARMC provides advice to the Board to assist in the effective discharge of responsibilities including:

- fulfilling statutory and fiduciary responsibilities relating to the accounting and financial reporting practices of the Board
- oversight of the Victorian Auditor-General's report of the GMA
- oversight of the internal audit program
- provision of advice to the Board regarding risks to the GMA.

Ethics Welfare and Science Committee

The following table summarises the EWSC membership and Director attendance for 2025-26:

	Attended	Eligible to attend
Dr Amanda Errington (Chairperson)	3	3
Owen Cavanough	3	3
Dr Danielle Auldist	3	3

The EWSC provides strategic advice and recommendations to the Board in relation to evidence-based decision-making and the GMA's approach to research.

The purpose of the EWSC is to:

- oversee the GMA's research program to ensure evidence-based regulation and management to achieve responsibility and sustainability in game hunting
- oversee and monitor the implementation of the GMA's Research Strategy
- review the GMA's Research Strategy to ensure it aligns with priorities and GMA's functions and obligations as outlined under the Act
- develop an annual work program for Board endorsement.

People and Partnerships Committee

The following table summarises the PPC membership and Director attendance for 2025-26:

	Attended	Eligible to attend
Owen Cavanough (Chairperson)	3	3
Chris Rose	3	3
Kylie Warne	3	3
Dr Danielle Auldist*	2	2

* Appointed to the Committee as of 1 August 2025

The purpose of the PPC is to assist the Board to discharge its responsibility to review, monitor and make recommendations regarding:

- workplace health, safety, and wellbeing strategies
- human resource management, policies, and obligations under industrial instruments
- oversight of people and culture strategic risks and key performance metrics
- support the Board and the CEO on significant change management processes, and/or policies and obligations under industrial instruments
- other matters relating to the GMA's people, their safety, culture, and performance that requires the Committee's consideration.

Game Management Authority Board

Mr Chris Rose

Chris has an extensive background in public land management in Victoria and Tasmania. He was an executive in Parks Victoria for more than eight years before acting as Chief Executive Officer for eight months. In 2016, Chris left government and established Three Pipe Consulting, specialising in connecting people and nature, practical governance and risk management.

Chris lives in regional Victoria and is passionate about developing opportunities for regional and rural business development based on tourism, sustainability and the appropriate use of public land assets. Chris also has considerable experience in emergency management and understands the importance of strong communication with all sectors.

Other professional interests include Occupational Health and Safety, communication and consultation, strategy development and organisational performance.

Chris holds a Degree in Forest Science from Melbourne University. In 2010, Chris completed the Williamson Community Leadership Program, is a Williamson Fellow and is a member and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Ms Corrie Goodwin

Corrie has built an accomplished career in agriculture and brings more than 20 years of experience driving transformational change and leading broader industry and regulatory reform. Corrie holds a deep understanding of how to overcome challenges common to agribusiness and trading environments.

Corrie has experience in a range of non-executive directorships, industry committees and advisory roles. Key appointments include Director of Sheep Producers Australia, Director of the Australian Dairy Industry Council, Vice President of the Australian Dairy Products Federation and Chair of the Australian Dairy Regulator's Forum.

Corrie is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation and holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne.

Dr Amanda Errington

Amanda has more than 30 years' experience as a veterinarian, with a special interest in animal welfare and ethics.

As a career veterinarian and through her previous role with Animal Welfare Victoria, Amanda has developed a strong background in best practice animal welfare, regulation, policy design, and assurance systems. Amanda is also experienced in developing integrated systems to identify and manage risks to animal welfare and ensuring that all actions are aligned with the organisation's environmental, social, and governance goals.

Amanda has previously sat on several animal ethics committees, which are responsible under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* for oversight of an organisation's care and use of animals for scientific and research purposes. She currently works with organisations using animals for this purpose to support high standards in animal care and welfare.

Amanda holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Hons) and is a member of both the Animal Welfare Chapter and the Medicine and Management of Laboratory Animals Chapter of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is currently undertaking a Master of Science in International Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law through the University of Edinburgh.

Mr Owen Cavanough

Owen is a strategic leader with a focus on developing people. He has more than 30 years of industry experience building high-performing, integrated teams to deliver complex projects.

Owen was previously a board member for over 10 years of an organisation that has been involved in conservation of game and responsible hunting. He brings practical experience in sustainable and responsible game hunting to the GMA. He is proud of his Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal heritage.

Owen holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons.) (Civil Engineering) and a Bachelor of Business (Finance and Law).

Owen has a current Victorian Game Licence and is a member of Field and Game Australia and the Australian Deer Association.

Ms Kylie Warne

Kylie is a marketing communications strategist who operated her own consultancy business for 17 years. She has a strong interest in regional economic growth and prosperity, and in supporting organisations to harness the power of effective governance, marketing and branding, stakeholder relationships and innovation.

Kylie brings more than 25 years' experience in driving growth and using data to support decision-making. She was independent Chair of the Victorian Government's Regional Development Advisory Committee, inaugural Chair of the Barwon Regional Partnership, longest-serving Chair of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce and a Director of the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where she continues to serve as an Executive Council member.

Kylie is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute and holds a Master of Business (Marketing) degree.

Dr Danielle Auldist

Danielle is passionate about agriculture, conservation and regional communities. She is experienced in research, project management, business administration and governance of not-for-profit businesses. She has worked at CEO and executive officer level of several Gippsland and industry-based organisations.

As an agricultural consultant, Danielle has worked with primary producers, catchment management authorities, shires and the Victorian Government. She was a university lecturer in animal sciences and completed three terms on the Board of Phillip Island Nature Parks.

Danielle currently works in Business Development for Australia's largest dairy robot company.

Her science-based insights support the GMA's focus on responsible and sustainable game hunting in Victoria.

Danielle holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science (Hons), Master of Agricultural Science and a PhD in Animal Science. She completed the Williamson Community Leadership Program and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr Luke Wilson PSM

Luke is an experienced public sector leader and advocate, with a long career shaping policy agendas across jurisdictions and organisational policy and strategy in public sector agencies. Luke's expertise spans agriculture, biosecurity, natural resources, fisheries, game management, emergency management and infrastructure, having spent many years within and leading Victoria's agriculture portfolio. He has also worked in South Australian and Australian Public Service roles. Luke was Victoria's first Cross Border Commissioner from 2018 to 2024, advocating for communities and businesses along each of Victoria's state borders.

In addition to his GMA board role, Luke is the Chairperson of both the North East Catchment Management Authority and Safe Food Victoria, as well as a member of several advisory boards with La Trobe University.

Luke holds a Bachelor of Forest Science from the University of Melbourne, a Graduate Diploma in Economics from La Trobe University, a Graduate Diploma in Management from the Australian Catholic University and an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Chief Executive Officer

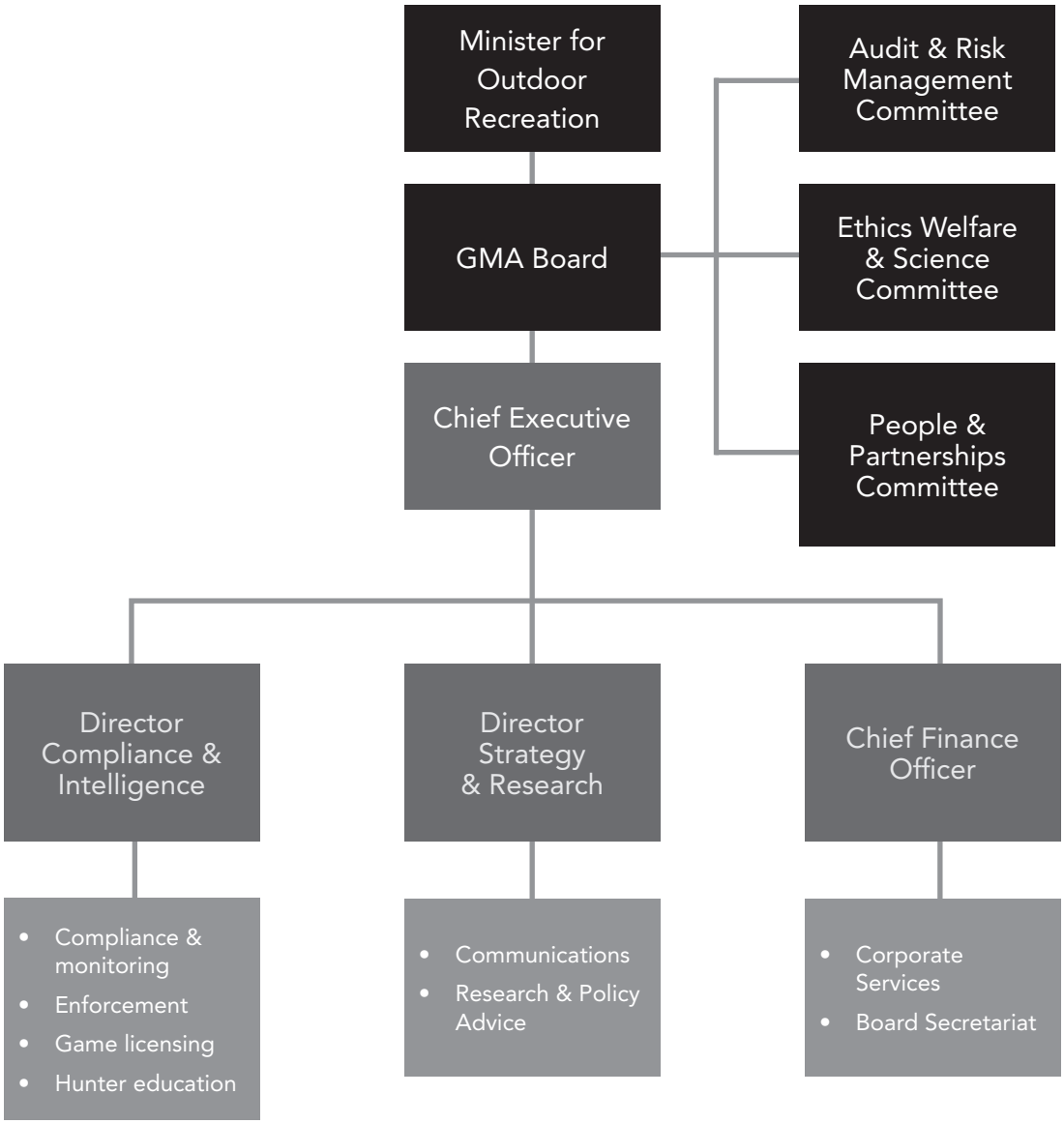
Mr Graeme Ford

Graeme has extensive leadership experience from his previous roles as the Chief Executive Officer at the Victorian Farmers Federation and as the Principal Consultant at Hillside Advisory Services.

Graeme has a Victorian rural farming background and has been a member of various boards and committees, where he has worked with a diverse range of stakeholders and government organisations over many years.

Graeme is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the General Management Program of Harvard Business School and holds post graduate qualifications in rural resource management, applied science and business administration.

GMA organisational structure as at 30 June 2026



Our Activities

As required under section 6 of the Act, the GMA delivers a range of services and activities in meeting its functions, including licensing, enforcement, education, research and monitoring and the provision of advice.

Summary of activities in 2025-26

Licensing

In 2025-26, the GMA:

- issued 6,116 new Game Licences and renewed a total of 24,126 Game Licences. All licences, permits and authorities were issued within the target period of 15 working days
- facilitated all new and renewing gamebird hunters to undertake online education and training. This included the generic Hunting Essentials module and then specific modules for Duck Hunting and, Quail and Introduced Gamebird basics
- 11,687 persons completed the Hunting Essentials module, 11,075 completed the Duck Hunting module, and 6,914 completed the Quail and Introduced Gamebird basics module(s)
- assessed a total of 4,916 Game Licence tests. This comprised of 4,054 Waterfowl Identification and 862 Hound Hunting Tests.

Compliance and intelligence

In 2025-26, the GMA:

- conducted 862 proactive education and enforcement patrols using an intelligence-led approach to target specific locations
- opened 94 new investigations. 172 investigations were concluded in the reporting period
- compliance operations and activities resulted in 17 court proceedings (54 charges), 59 infringement notices and 23 official warnings
- developed and released new information among regional Victorian communities, to raise awareness of the dangers of illegal hunting, and how to report it.

Education

In 2025-26, the GMA:

- held two practical introduction sessions to new licence holders for deer hunting in partnership with industry
- updated online education modules to support mandated testing for all gamebird hunters and finalised the Practical Shotgunning trial program
- attended seven hound assessment days, hosted seven Hog Deer Ballot educational briefings and presented at the Hog Deer pre-season education weekend on Sunday Island and the Forest Edge deer education weekend
- attended 11 exhibitions and presented at seven industry events
- attended and presented at 13 education events with regional councils and land management organisations
- undertook five dedicated educational patrols and attended 21 retail outlets and provided education material
- continued the REDUCE Wounding awareness campaign to help educate duck hunters in the methods and techniques to reduce wounding of ducks.

Research and advice

In 2025-26, the GMA:

- commissioned field surveys and a report on the abundance of game ducks in Victoria, together with Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) modelling to identify a daily bag limit to achieve the seasonal harvest quota for the 2026 duck season
- commissioned field surveys and a report on the abundance and distribution of Stubble Quail in Victoria
- provided advice to government on arrangements for the 2026 duck and Stubble Quail seasons
- coordinated hunter harvest surveys and commissioned reports on the estimates of duck, Stubble Quail and deer harvest for 2025 in Victoria
- monitored wounding levels in duck hunting and published a report
- commissioned a study into the population genetics of Victoria's game ducks
- commissioned RMIT University to undertake research on the social influences on waterfowl wounding during hunting
- continued the study into the spatial ecology and survivorship of four game duck species in partnership with Deakin University
- commissioned Deakin University to undertake a three-year study into the spatial ecology and survivorship of the Stubble Quail
- submitted a manuscript to a peer-reviewed scientific journal investigating the animal welfare outcomes of lead and copper bullets for Fallow Deer hunting
- continued research to investigate the contribution of recreational hunting to deer control
- commissioned and commenced research into the impact of recreational hunting on the abundance of deer in the newly opened to hunting Snowy River and Errinundra National Parks
- continued preparations for research into identifying the wounding rate in duck hunting in Victoria

- coordinated meetings of the expert panel to review the performance of AHM game duck abundance and bag models
- provided advice to government departments on several regulatory reviews
- continued implementation of the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan (WWRAP)
- commissioned research into the effectiveness of the REDUCE Wounding information and education campaign
- submitted to government a draft Wounding Reduction Action Plan for Stubble Quail hunting in Victoria
- developed updated videos on the Guidelines for the Humane Dispatch of Downed Ducks
- provided advice to government on the management of wetlands holding significant concentrations of threatened and breeding waterbirds during the 2026 duck season.

Details of activities in 2025-26

Licensing

The GMA is required to administer a scheme for issuing Game Licences provided for under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. The GMA administers both recreational and commercial licences. Testing, training and auditing functions are also implemented to support the scheme.

As of 30 June 2026, the total number of Victorian Game Licence holders was 53,278. Of this total, 17,352 were endorsed to hunt duck, 13,798 were endorsed to hunt quail and 44,898 were endorsed to hunt deer.

Note: some hunters hold licences endorsed for multiple species categories.

Licence type	Total processed for 2024-25 financial year	Total processed for 2025-26 financial year
General Game Licences issued (new and reissued expired licences)	6,527	6,116
General Game Licences renewed	25,982	24,126
General Game Licence applications refused	1	3
General Game Licences suspended	22	18
General Game Licences cancelled	0	2
General Game Licence issued with conditions	0	0
Non-resident Game Licences issued	9	7
Junior Provisional Game Licences issued	277	179
Gamebird Reserve Hunter's Licences issued	51	73
Hounds registered	342	552
Licence amendments, including change of address	2,027	1,927
Hound pups authorised	116	143
Permits/authorisations issued	74	91
Commercial Game Bird Farmer Licences issued	0	0
Commercial Game Bird Farmer Licences renewed	2	2

Licence Referencing Committee

The GMA Licence Referencing Committee (LRC) is convened to consider any matters relating to a Game Licence, Commercial Game Bird Farmer, hound registration or authorisation that may warrant consideration for refusal, suspension, or cancellation.

In 2025-26, the LRC considered 18 cases of Game Licence holders or applicants who had committed offences against the *Wildlife Act 1975*, or breached a licence condition, and provided advice to the CEO. Of these, three applications were refused by the CEO and two licences were cancelled.

For this financial year, 18 in-field suspension notices for Game Licences were issued. All suspended licences were further considered by the LRC for cancellation, however, no further action was recommended pending possible court outcomes.

Education and training

The GMA recognises that appropriate education and training promote voluntary compliance with game hunting laws and builds an informed and respected industry. The GMA continued to deliver against its Education Strategy 2020-2025.

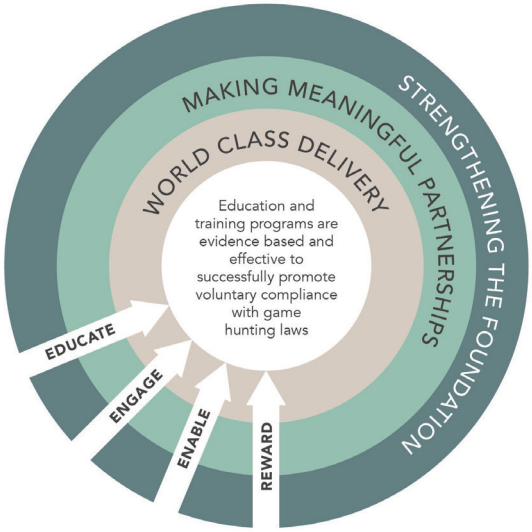


Figure 1: Education Framework – Education Strategy 2020 – 2025, published by the GMA, April 2020

In 2025-26, the GMA delivered against its Education Strategy 2020-2025 through:

In-field education

The GMA delivers targeted, in-field education programs and patrols to actively engage with hunters and other public land users, maximise exposure and address specific issues or trends. In 2025-26, the GMA attended and presented at 13 regional education events with councils and land management organisations, undertook five dedicated educational patrols and attended 21 retail outlets and provided education material.

Expos and events

The GMA attended 11 exhibitions and presented at seven industry events. This included the Wild Deer Expo, Mansfield Hunting and Fishing Expo and the Melbourne 4x4 Expo.

The GMA also attended seven hound assessment days, hosted seven Hog Deer Ballot education briefings and presented at the Hog Deer education weekend on Sunday Island and the Forest Edge Deer Education weekend.

Other notable attendances included the Australian Bowhunters Association Field Day, Geelong Duck Hunting and Outdoor Expo, Hooked on Portland and 'Codference'.

The GMA also had multiple engagement sessions with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and a practical introduction to deer hunting course with the Dja Dja Wurrung.

Education tools

The GMA continued to distribute Junior Hunter Education Packs to Junior Game Licence holders providing them with introductory hunter education and direct contact details of Game Managers should they want further information.

In delivering against the Victorian Government's commitment to introduce mandatory training and testing for gamebird hunters, the GMA published three modules, Hunting Essentials, Duck hunting and Quail, and introduced gamebird hunting and associated tests onto its online Learning Management System.

As part of this initiative, the GMA also produced training and testing material on cultural heritage awareness. This included partnering with Department of Premier and Cabinet's First Peoples – State Relations and the Victoria Aboriginal Heritage Council to produce an On Country educational video focused on game hunting and cultural awareness.

Enforcement

The GMA seeks to achieve compliance using a range of sanctions, including official warnings, infringement notices, prosecutions and licence suspensions and cancellations. Any sanctions imposed because of court proceedings are at the discretion of the courts. Other agencies, including Victoria Police, DEECA, and Parks Victoria, are also authorised to undertake enforcement actions relating to illegal hunting or hunting-related activities.

This financial year, further investment ensured officers had the tools needed to be intelligence-led. This included increased surveillance technology and enhancements to remote communication, reporting and system access.

Furthering the established relationship with cross-border regulators, GMA hosted a work placement from NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The table below details the key enforcement outputs by the GMA for the last five years, including 2025-26:

Activity	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Information reports generated	801	1081	770	662	558	458
Official (written) warnings issued	3	30	13	7	16	14
Warnings (non-infringeable offences)	-	4	1	7	9	9
Infringement notices issued as part of GMA conducted enforcement operations	118	117	37	46	47	59
Banning notices issued	3	4	5	22	4	0
Infield Game Licence Suspensions					22*	18
Court proceedings concluded	2	14	12	10	7	17

**Infield Game Licence suspension notices have only been available since February 2025.*

Illegal hunting reports

In 2025-26, the GMA generated 458 hunting-related Information Reports from internal sources, members of the community and other referring agencies. Of the Information Reports generated, 305 were the result of illegal hunting reports submitted via the GMA website (84 per cent), direct contact with GMA staff (11 per cent), the Customer Contact Centre (four per cent).

Of the 305 matters submitted via the GMA website, the top four reporting themes related to illegal deer spotlighting (19 per cent), firearm matters (12 per cent) and deer and duck hunting (10 per cent respectively).

Summary of 2025-26 operations

- 94 new investigations were commenced, and 172 investigations were concluded
- the GMA led and conducted 25 operations, with the majority targeting illegal spotlighting associated with deer hunting
- the GMA was involved in 21 multi-agency operations
- four warrants were executed.

Authorised Officers (AOs) conducted 862 proactive education and enforcement patrols across public and private land, targeting areas using a risk-based, intelligence-led and outcomes focused approach.

Operational support to government

The GMA continued to deliver on a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to provide services to DJSIR for the administration and compliance of the commercial Kangaroo Harvest Program (KHP).

The GMA delivers against specific performance measures contained in the agreement. Reporting against the outcomes of the SLA is the responsibility of DJSIR.

Recommendations and advice

Under the Act, the GMA has the power to make recommendations to relevant Ministers in relation to game hunting and game management, the control of pest animals, declaring public land open or closed to game hunting, open and closed seasons and bag limits, and the management of public and private land as it relates to game and their habitats.

The GMA regularly consults with other Victorian Government and interstate agencies on game management issues.

Advice to government

The GMA provided advice to government on several matters relating to game hunting, including:

- 2026 duck hunting season arrangements, which included use of AHM to inform the daily bag limit to achieve government's seasonal harvest quota
- 2026 Stubble Quail hunting seasonal arrangements.

Advice to partner agencies

Throughout 2025-26, the GMA was involved in several forums and provided advice to, or was consulted by, other agencies on subjects that directly and indirectly impact game hunting or game management.

The GMA provided advice on:

- the management of wetlands to protect significant concentrations of threatened and breeding waterbirds during the 2026 duck season
- amendments to the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2024 to clarify the hound hunting season timing, additions to the permitted hound breeds and other administrative amendments
- development of the Conservation, Forests and Lands (Wildlife (Game) Infringement Notices) Regulations 2026
- development of the survey and draft report on the Economic and Social Benefits of Recreational Hunting in Victoria
- the legal notices allowing deer hunting in the Snowy River and Errinundra National Parks.

The GMA, in collaboration with the Wounding Reduction Working Group, continued implementation of the Victorian WWRAP. This included preparing videos on the Guidelines for the Humane Dispatch of Downed Ducks and commissioning RMIT University to undertake research on social influences on waterfowl wounding during hunting. The GMA also prepared a draft Wounding Reduction Action Plan for Stubble Quail hunting in consultation with the Working Group for the consideration of the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.

Research and monitoring

Under the Act, the GMA may monitor, conduct research and analyse the environmental, social, and economic impacts of game hunting and game management. By monitoring and analysing the environment, the GMA tracks trends in hunting activity and impacts to ensure hunting does not adversely affect the sustainability of native game species or their habitats.

To help inform decision-making for regulating the hunting of game birds, the GMA:

- commissioned the annual aerial and ground survey of Victorian game duck abundance to estimate the total number of game ducks in Victoria. A total of 855 waterbodies were surveyed, 795 of which were surveyed by air and 60 by ground
- commissioned the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) to run the AHM models and prepare a report recommending bag limits to achieve the seasonal harvest quota for the 2026 duck season. The final report (*Abundance estimates for game ducks in Victoria: Recommendations for arrangements for the 2026 hunting season*) was published on the GMA website
- coordinated meetings of the expert panel to review the performance of AHM game duck abundance and bag models
- continued delivery of a three-year study into the spatial ecology and survivorship of four game duck species in partnership with Deakin University. Over 400 game ducks will be fitted with satellite tracking devices. The attachment of trackers commenced in June 2025 and over 120 had been fitted by the end of June 2026. Data will be used in game duck population dynamic modelling to inform AHM
- commissioned ARI to conduct a study into the population genetics of Victoria's game ducks to support sustainable harvest and improve our knowledge of the genetic health of these species
- supported DEECA in conducting the Priority Waterbird Count by surveying duck hunting wetlands across the state to identify those that required management action
- monitored wetlands that were closed to duck hunting or had significant concentrations of threatened waterbird species present
- coordinated the duck season opening week hunter bag surveys
- contributed financially and with personnel to the Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey, delivered by the University of New South Wales
- continued the monitoring program to provide an index of waterfowl wounding from duck hunting, which will allow long-term trends to be monitored and assess the success of wounding reduction management programs

and interventions. 707 game ducks were captured and radiographed to detect the presence of embedded pellets. A report (*Monitoring trends in waterfowl wounding 2025*) was published on the GMA website

- commissioned research into the effectiveness of the 'REDUCE Wounding' information and education campaign. A report '*REDUCE Wounding campaign review research*' was published on the GMA website
- commissioned an environmental consultancy to conduct field surveys to determine the state-wide abundance and distribution of Stubble Quail. 76 sites and 240 km of transects were surveyed. Data was analysed and a report was prepared by ARI estimating statewide abundance. The final report (*Population estimates for Stubble Quail in Victoria: Results from the 2026 survey*) was published on the GMA website
- commissioned Deakin University to undertake a three-year study into the spatial ecology and survivorship of the Stubble Quail. A PhD candidate was appointed and tracker deployment commenced
- collected wings and tail feathers from game ducks harvested during the first week of the 2026 duck season to determine age, sex and productivity
- commissioned RMIT University to undertake a project on hunter behaviours and attitudes that contribute to waterfowl wounding.

To better understand the ecology and management of deer, the GMA:

- continued a three-year research project into the contribution of recreational hunting to deer control. Comparative and experimental sites were established in the east and west of the state respectively to determine deer densities and vegetation impacts
- commissioned and commenced a three-year research project into the impact of recreational hunting on the abundance of deer in the newly opened to hunting Snowy River and Errinundra National Parks.

To monitor the extent of hunting and harvest of game species, the GMA:

- commissioned surveys of deer, duck and quail hunters and analysis of data to determine harvest levels and hunting effort. *Estimates of the 2025 deer harvest in Victoria* and *Estimates of harvest for duck and Stubble Quail in Victoria 2025* were published on the GMA website.

To better understand the hunting efficacy and animal welfare implications of hunting ammunition, the GMA:

- submitted a manuscript to a peer-reviewed scientific journal investigating the performance of lead and copper bullets for Fallow Deer hunting.

Communications

The GMA aims to keep Game Licence holders informed and increase public awareness of hunting regulations, ethical hunting behaviours, public safety laws and the GMA's role and responsibilities. Through its communications, the GMA seeks to strengthen community engagement, build partnerships with relevant agencies, and enhance understanding of game management across Victoria.

Website

The GMA website remains a key communication platform. In 2025–26, the website recorded 278,459 sessions from 180,236 users, down from 299,859 sessions and 193,468 users in 2024-25. Approximately 85 per cent of users were located in Australia.

A total of 621,019 pages were viewed which was similar to the previous year (626,592). The most visited pages were:

- Licensing and renewals
- Hunting maps
- Where to hunt deer

Facebook

During 2025–26, the GMA published 103 posts on its Facebook page, generating:

- 37,195 reactions
- 11,823 comments
- 1,961 shares

As of 30 June 2026, the page had 30,073 followers, an increase of 6,533 from 23,540 since 2024-25.

YouTube

As of 30 June 2026, the GMA's YouTube channel had 2,984 subscribers.

Customer Contact Centre

The DEECA Customer Contact Centre provides call centre services to the GMA.

Most queries received by the Customer Contact Centre related to game licensing, accessing MyGL and associated testing. The Customer Contact Centre responded to 13,396 GMA-related requests, with most requests received from people within the Port Phillip region (5,735), followed by the Gippsland region (1,745).

Media

To keep the public informed of seasonal arrangements, compliance outcomes, and other developments, the GMA released 17 news updates and media releases throughout 2025–26 and responded to more than 25 enquiries from media.

Our Performance

Planning and reporting

In accordance with the requirement of the Act, the GMA delivered the 2025-26 Annual Business Plan to the Minister by 31 August 2025 for consideration.

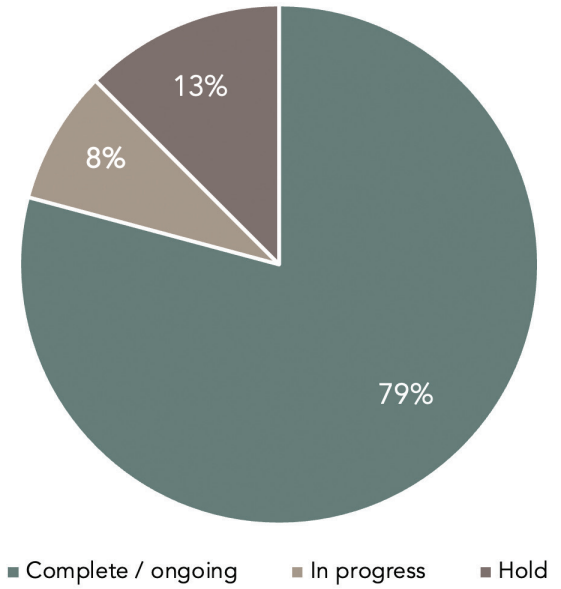


Figure 2: 2025-26 Business Plan Performance

Of the 72 performance measures in the 2025-26 Business Plan:

- 79 per cent are complete or are ongoing activities monitored by the Business Plan reporting
- Eight per cent are in progress. These actions relate to projects or deliverables that are being delivered over multiple years
- 13 per cent are on hold. These actions are dependent on DJSIR and transition to the new entity, Fishing Hunting and Outdoor Victoria.

Compliance with legislation and agreements

Given the powers afforded to it under various Acts, the GMA is required to comply with certain laws regarding the execution of those powers or the use of certain equipment.

The GMA possesses Operational Safety Defensive Equipment (OSDE) for issue and use by the GMA Authorised Officers. Equipment includes oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, extendable batons, body armour and handcuffs.

These are subject to bi-annual audits. Batons, OC spray and body armour are prohibited weapons under the *Control of Weapons Act 1990* and are subject to strict storage requirements.

As a regulator, the GMA is recognised by the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999* for the use of certain surveillance devices and the *Wildlife Act 1975* for controlled operations. The GMA is subject to audit by the Victorian Inspectorate (VI) for activity under these Acts and relevant records are audited each year. The GMA reports to the VI on activity in controlled operations under the *Wildlife Act 1975* and the Attorney-General on activity under the *Surveillance Devices Act 1999*.

The GMA has an information-sharing agreement with VicRoads for access to the registration and licence database. It is a VicRoads requirement that the use and access of the database is audited each year.

The GMA has an agreement with Victoria Police to access data held as part of its Law Enforcement Assistance Program.

The following table details the audit activity for enforcement for 2025-26:

Activity	Comments
Audits for compliance conducted	Internal audits were conducted for OSDE storage and compliance with GMA policy
Audit for data security and compliance with VicRoads agreement	Independent audit conducted and report provided to VicRoads
Reports on activity for controlled operations (bi-annual)	Submitted to the Integrity Oversight Victoria for periods 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025 and 1 January 2026 to 30 June 2026
Report on activity for the use of certain surveillance devices (annual)	Submitted to the Attorney-General for period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Risk review of infield compliance	External risk review regarding infield compliance and safe working environment

Hunting Reform Program (HRP)

In its response to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements, the Victorian Government committed to a range of actions as part of a Hunting Reform Program. Seven of the Select Committee's eight recommendations were accepted in full or in principle. The GMA has a role in delivering the following actions:

Activity	Comments
Implementing Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) for setting duck season arrangements	The GMA continues to commission surveys and data analysis to estimate Victorian game duck abundance and recommend daily bag limits to achieve the government's seasonal harvest quota under the Victorian Game Duck Harvest Strategy.
Enhance compliance and enforcement	Three additional Authorised Officers have been deployed.
Implementing the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan (WWRAP)	The GMA continues to coordinate implementation of the WWRAP. In 2025-26: a) the 'REDUCE Wounding' campaign continued to be promoted, and the GMA commissioned research into the effectiveness of the campaign b) 'REDUCE Wounding' promotional items were developed and issued to hunters to reduce wounding in the field c) videos on the Guidelines for the Humane Dispatch of Downed Ducks were prepared and promoted on the GMA website d) research on the social influences on waterfowl wounding during hunting was commissioned by the GMA e) a practical shotgunning trial was conducted, and a report was submitted to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation f) the wounding monitoring research program continued. The GMA also submitted to government a draft Wounding Reduction Action Plan for Stubble Quail hunting in Victoria.
Implementation of mandatory hunter education and training including, waterfowl identification, and cultural heritage awareness.	The GMA has implemented enhancements to the MyGL system and delivered several mandatory education modules for new or renewing game bird hunters to obtain a Game Licence.

Current Year Financial Review

Five-year financial summary

	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
	$	$	$	$	$
Grants	9,725,664	11,594,552	7,671,815	9,111,356	9,062,565
Interest	443,806	458,444	426,270	241,118	22,705
Sale of goods and services	440	18,819	127	2,574	-
Total revenue	**10,169,910**	**12,071,815**	**8,098,212**	**9,355,048**	**9,085,270**
Employee expenses	(6,587,089)	(6,372,642)	(4,854,964)	(5,536,597)	(5,103,876)
Depreciation and amortisation	(457,194)	(426,778)	(467,051)	(403,289)	(386,015)
Interest expense	(39,930)	(37,809)	(35,140)	(30,121)	(31,460)
Other operating expenses	(5,992,407)	(5,539,812)	(3,298,103)	(3,485,732)	(3,263,580)
Total expenditure	**(13,076,620)**	**(12,377,041)**	**(8,655,258)**	**(9,455,739)**	**(8,784,931)**
Net result from transactions	**(2,906,710)**	**(305,226)**	**(557,046)**	**(100,691)**	**300,339**
Other economic flows (includes gains on disposal of assets)	44,234	(4,596)	47,880	8,462	86,819
Comprehensive result	**(2,862,476)**	**(309,822)**	**(509,166)**	**(92,229)**	**387,158**
Financial assets	6,226,213	12,646,887	9,208,755	10,651,342	7,868,001
Non-financial assets	1,340,484	1,525,577	1,509,949	1,878,559	2,136,769
Total assets	**7,566,697**	**14,172,464**	**10,718,704**	**12,529,902**	**10,004,770**
Payables	1,569,000	5,362,169	2,034,623	2,962,478	398,096
Borrowings	989,359	1,261,963	1,200,380	1,430,428	1,558,311
Provisions	2,171,561	1,849,081	1,474,630	1,618,759	1,437,898
Total liabilities	**4,729,921**	**8,473,213**	**4,709,633**	**6,011,664**	**3,394,305**
Net Assets (Equity)	**2,836,776**	**5,699,251**	**6,009,071**	**6,518,237**	**6,610,466**

Financial Performance

The GMA recorded a net deficit from transactions of $2.9 million in 2025-26. This result primarily reflects the planned investment of cash reserves in research initiatives, safety equipment and intelligence services, together with the impact of depreciation and amortisation expenses that are not directly funded.

Income

Total income for 2025-26 was $10.2 million, comprising $9.7 million in grant funding from the DJSIR and $0.4 million in interest income.

Grant income was lower than 2024-25, primarily due to reduced funding associated with the delivery milestones of the HRP initiatives.

Expenses

Total operating expenses for 2025-26 were $13.1 million. Expenditure supported the delivery of initiatives outlined in the GMA Business Plan and the GMA's core functions, including:

- on-ground compliance and enforcement patrols
- community and stakeholder awareness campaigns
- research programs.

Expenditure also supported the delivery of HRP initiatives, including:

- the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM)
- increased investment in surveillance and intelligence capabilities
- implementation of the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan
- enhancements to the licensing system to enable the rollout of the education modules.

Financial Position

The GMA's net assets were $2.8 million as at 30 June 2026, representing a decrease of $2.9 million from the previous year.

The reduction in net assets was primarily due to the planned drawdown of cash reserves to fund strategic research programs focused on sustainable hunting and animal welfare, supporting the GMA's evidence-based decision-making.

Human Resource Management

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

The GMA is committed to providing and maintaining a working environment that is safe, healthy and complies with all statutory requirements and codes of practice.

The GMA, in so far as is practicable:

- provides and maintains systems of work that are safe and healthy
- uses, handles, stores and transports articles and substances in a way that is safe, and controls risks to health
- provides such information, instruction, training, and supervision needed to ensure the health and safety at work of employees and others
- provides a safe means of access to and from the place of work
- maintains a working environment that is safe, minimises risks to health and provides adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare at work.

The GMA undertakes the full range of health and safety obligations to ensure that human and financial costs of occupational injury and illness are minimised.

Initiatives during the year included:

- providing free access to vaccinations for influenza and Japanese encephalitis
- providing safety equipment to field staff, including uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- providing all staff with confidential access to an Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- providing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide enforcement duties and provide a safe working environment
- maintaining a staff-driven Safety Consultative Committee to ensure site specific or environmental risks are addressed.

The Board-appointed People and Partnerships Committee provides oversight and support for the safety of all GMA staff.

Incident management

There were 13 occupational health and safety incidents reported during the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. All incidents were assessed and closed off as of 30 June 2026. There was one lost time injury reporting in the period.

Employment and conduct principles

The GMA is committed to adhering to the Public Sector Values and Employment Principles set out in the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The GMA ensures its policies and procedures reflect these values.

The GMA is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably based on the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination. Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

Executive Officer data

A member of the Senior Executive Service (SES) is defined as a person employed as an executive under Part 3 of the *Public Administration Act 2004* (PAA). For a public body, an executive is defined as a person employed under Part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy applies. All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.

There were two people who held the positions of Executive Officer (EO) as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*, as at the last full pay period in June 2026.

The number of executives in the report of operations is based on the number of executive level positions that are occupied at the end of the financial year. Note 8.4 in the Financial Statement lists the actual number of EOs and their remuneration over the course of the reporting period. The Financial Statement does not distinguish between executive levels, nor does it disclose vacant positions, nor does it include the Accountable Officer. This disclosure is reconciled below:

Reconciliation of executive numbers	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Executive positions with total remuneration over $100,000 (Financial Statement Note 8.4)	2	2	1	2	2
Vacancies	-	-	1	-	-
Separations	-	-	1	-	-
Total executive numbers at 30 June	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**2**

Workforce data

	Ongoing employees 2025-26			Fixed term and casual employees (including secondees)
	Employees	Full time	Part time	FTE
Executive	2 (2)	2 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Principal Scientist	1 (1)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Senior Manager	3 (3)	3 (3)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Administration staff	7 (8)	5 (5)	1 (1)	1 (2)
Field staff	24 (22)	24 (22)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Total positions	**37 (36)**	**35 (33)**	**1 (1)**	**1 (2)**
Male	28 (27)	28 (27)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Female	9 (9)	7 (6)	1 (1)	1 (2)

Note:
Figures in parenthesis are from 2024-25 financial year.

The Executive classification reflects SES-1 in accordance with the VPSC guidelines.

All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.

Excluded are those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors/consultants and temporary staff employed by employment agencies. Ongoing employees includes people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment and executives engaged on a standard executive contract.

Other Disclosures

Local Jobs First initiative

The GMA has not undertaken any projects during the financial reporting period relevant to the Local Jobs First initiative.

Social Procurement Framework

Government departments, agencies and public entities are required to measure and report their achievements under the Victorian Government Social Procurement Framework (SPF), which includes 10 social and sustainability objectives.

The SPF applies to the procurement of all goods, services and construction undertaken by, or on behalf of, the Government, and is defined by ten objectives:

1. Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people
2. Opportunities for Victorians with disability
3. Women's equality and safety
4. Opportunities for disadvantaged Victorians
5. Supporting safe and fair workplaces
6. Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors
7. Sustainable Victorian regions
8. Environmentally sustainable outputs
9. Environmentally sustainable business practices
10. Implementation of the climate change policy objectives.

The GMA embraces the principles underpinning the SPF and is committed to developing processes and policies that reflect these principles and to contribute to the achievement of the stated objectives, wherever practicable.

The GMA is a member of DJSIR's Traditional Owner Engagement Community of Practice and Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy Co-Governance Group.

The GMA applied the social procurement framework during its procurement process for the purchase of Hog Deer tags, which are made from materials that are more durable and can be re-used, thereby demonstrating the objectives of the SPF: creating environmentally sustainable outputs.

The GMA supports regional towns and communities through its operational activities. During the 2025-26 reporting period, GMA staff regularly travelled to Victorian regional towns to conduct operations and field training, involving overnight stays in regional accommodation and the purchase of food and other services, all of which contributed to local economic activity and employment.

Advertising expenditure

The GMA's expenditure in the 2025-26 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed $100,000.

Consultancy expenditure (valued at $10,000 or greater)

In 2025-26, seven consultancies were engaged during the year where the total fees payable was $10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2025-26 in relation to these consultancies was $507,101 excluding GST.

Consultancy expenditure (valued at under $10,000)

In 2025-26, one consultancy was engaged during the year where the total fees payable was less than $10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2025-26 in relation to this consultancy was $3,750 excluding GST.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) expenditure

For the 2025-26 reporting period, the GMA had a total ICT expenditure of $686,912 with details shown below:

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure relating to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities	
$		$
Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	**Non-Business As Usual (non BAU ICT expenditure)**	
	Operational Expenditure (OPEX)	286,474
	Capital expenditure (CAPEX)	-
400,438		**286,474**

Note:
ICT expenditure refers to the GMA's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing the GMA's current ICT capabilities.

BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure, which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* allows the public a right of access to documents held by the GMA as the prescribed authority for the purposes of the Act.

Freedom of Information (FOI) statistics and timeliness

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2026, there was one valid Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the GMA.

In 2025-26, there were zero FOI access decisions and the average time taken to finalise requests was 29 days. All decisions were made within the regulatory time period.

Victorian Information Commissioner Reviews

During 2025-26, three FOI decisions were appealed to the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC).

Making a request

FOI requests must be made in writing describing the documents requested and including payment of the application fee of $33.60. The fee may be waived if the payment is likely to cause hardship to the applicant. Assistance can be provided to applicants to help determine the type of documents being requested. Access charges may also apply once documents are processed and a decision on access is made; for example, photocopying and search and retrieval charges.

Requests for documents in the possession of the GMA should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Unit
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
GPO Box 4509, Melbourne 3001

Further information regarding the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* may be found at www.ovic.vic.gov.au

Compliance with the *Building Act 1993*

The GMA does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

National Competition Policy

The GMA, where applicable, continues to comply with the requirements of the National Competition Policy.

Compliance with *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

The GMA is a public body subject to the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act). The purpose of the PID Act is to encourage and facilitate the making of disclosures of corrupt or improper conduct by public officers and public bodies, including the GMA, its employees, and Directors, without the fear of reprisal.

The GMA recognises the value of transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal improper conduct. It does not tolerate improper conduct by the organisation, its employees, officers, or Directors, nor the taking of detrimental action in reprisal against those who come forward to disclose such conduct.

The GMA has established procedures to facilitate and encourage the making of disclosures under the PID Act, and how the GMA will manage the welfare of persons connected with protected disclosures.

Disclosures under the PID Act about improper conduct of, or detrimental action taken in reprisal for a protected disclosure by the GMA or its employees and Directors must be made to the Victorian Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC):

- in person at Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000
- in writing GPO Box 24234, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001 or email info@ibac.vic.gov.au
- by telephone 1300 735 135.

Emergency Procurement Disclosure

Emergency procurement was not activated, resulting in nil spending for emergency procurements.

Environmental reporting

The GMA continues to maintain operational practices that aim to have minimal environmental impact and remain sustainable. This is evidenced in the use of equipment and consumables, transport choices, and recycling practices within the organisation including reducing single use plastics.

The GMA has an SLA in place with DJSIR for the provision of fleet services. For the provision of office accommodation, the GMA has a combination of SLAs with DEECA and direct lease agreements.

Under Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 24 *Reporting of environmental data by government entities*, the GMA is required to report on electricity consumption and electricity offsets for leased accommodation where electricity has been purchased via a separate retail contract.

Location	Usage (mWh)	Usage (mWh) / m2
Melbourne CBD	8.998	0.038
Traralgon Depot	8.889	0.048
Bendigo Depot	9.855	0.028
Wendouree Depot	7.774	0.023
Total	**35.516**	**0.032**

Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF) maturity assessment

The AMAF is a non-prescriptive, devolved accountability model of asset management that requires compliance with 41 mandatory requirements.

The GMA has an exemption from Standing Direction 4.2.1 Asset Management Accountability and is not required to complete the assessment.

Availability of additional information on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions 2018, under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, details in respect of the information items below have been retained by the GMA and are available to the relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament, and the public on request (subject to the FOI requirements, if applicable):

- a statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers
- details of shares held by a senior officer as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- details of publications produced by the entity, about the entity, and how these can be obtained
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the entity
- details of any major external reviews carried out on the entity
- details of any other research and development activities undertaken by the entity that are not otherwise covered either in the report of operations or in a document which contains the financial statement and report of operations
- details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the entity to develop community awareness of the services provided by the entity
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations
- a general statement on industrial relations within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes, which are not otherwise detailed in the report of operations
- a list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved.

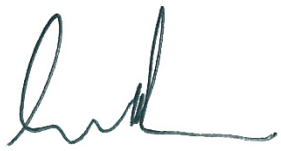
This information is available on request from:

Game Management Authority
GPO Box 424
Melbourne Victoria 3001

Game Management Authority Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Chris Rose, on behalf of the Game Management Authority, certify that the Game Management Authority has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

The Game Management Authority Audit and Risk Management Committee has verified this attestation.



Chris Rose
Chairperson

23 October 2026

Financial Report – 30 June 2026

How this report is structured

The Game Management Authority (GMA) has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 in the following structure to provide users with information about the GMA's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

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Accountable Officer's declaration, Chairperson's declaration and Chief Finance Officer's declaration

The attached financial statements for the Game Management Authority (GMA) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards, including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

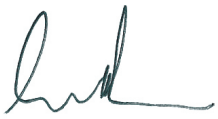
We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position of the GMA as at 30 June 2026.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 16 October 2026.



Mr Jason McGrath
Chief Finance Officer
Game Management Authority
Melbourne
16 October 2026



Mr Chris Rose
Chairperson
Game Management Authority
Melbourne
16 October 2026



Mr Graeme Ford
Chief Executive Officer
Game Management Authority
Melbourne
16 October 2026

Independent Audit Report from Auditor-General

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Game Management Authority

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Game Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • Accountable Officer's, Chairperson's and Chief Finance Officer's declaration. In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975.* My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Other information	The Board of the authority is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2026. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.

Level 31 / 35 Collins Street, Melbourne Vic 3000
T 03 8601 7000 enquiries@audit.vic.gov.au www.audit.vic.gov.au

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	As required by the *Audit Act 1994,* my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also: • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board • conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
23 October 2026

Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Comprehensive operating statement[(a)]

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Continuing operations			
Income from transactions			
Income	**2.1**	10,169,910	12,071,815
Total income from transactions		**10,169,910**	**12,071,815**
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	**3.1.1**	(6,587,089)	(6,372,642)
Other operating expenses	**3.2**	(5,992,407)	(5,539,812)
Depreciation and amortisation	**4.1.3 & 4.2**	(457,194)	(426,778)
Interest expense	**6.1**	(39,930)	(37,809)
Total expenses from transactions		**(13,076,620)**	**(12,377,041)**
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		**(2,906,710)**	**(305,226)**
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain on disposal of property and equipment	**8.1**	28,592	-
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	**8.1**	15,642	(4,596)
Total other economic flows included in net result		**44,234**	**(4,596)**
Net result		(2,862,476)	(309,822)
Comprehensive result		**(2,862,476)**	**(309,822)**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

(a) This format is aligned to *AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

Balance sheet[a]

as at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	**6.3**	6,089,059	12,588,256
Receivables	**5.1**	137,154	58,631
Total financial assets		**6,226,213**	**12,646,887**
Non-financial assets			
Property and equipment	**4.1**	1,035,294	1,362,681
Intangible assets	**4.2**	18,628	43,466
Other non-financial assets	**5.3**	286,562	119,430
Total non-financial assets		**1,340,484**	**1,525,577**
Total assets		**7,566,697**	**14,172,464**
Liabilities			
Payables	**5.2**	1,569,000	5,362,169
Borrowings	**6.1**	989,360	1,261,963
Employee related provisions	**3.1.2**	2,171,561	1,849,081
Total liabilities		**4,729,921**	**8,473,213**
Net assets		**2,836,776**	**5,699,251**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		2,836,776	5,699,251
Net worth		**2,836,776**	**5,699,251**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

[a] This format is aligned to *AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

Cash flow statement[a]

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		9,645,653	12,534,899
Receipts from other entities		440	18,819
Interest received		443,806	458,444
Total receipts		**10,089,899**	**13,012,162**
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(15,742,742)	(7,848,349)
Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO[b]		(457,447)	(413,330)
Interest costs of finance paid		(39,930)	(37,809)
Total payments		**(16,240,119)**	**(8,299,488)**
Net cash flows (used in)/ from operating activities		**(6,150,220)**	**4,712,674**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		-	(36,164)
Sale of non-financial assets		58,864	-
Net cash flows (used in)/ from investing activities		**58,864**	**(36,164)**
Cash flows from financing activity			
Repayment of borrowings and principal portion of lease liabilities[c]		(407,842)	(311,441)
Net cash flows (used in) financing activity		**(407,842)**	**(311,441)**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**(6,499,198)**	**4,365,069**
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		12,588,257	8,223,187
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**6.3**	**6,089,059**	**12,588,256**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

[a] This format is aligned to *AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

[b] Goods and Services Tax (GST) paid to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is presented on a net basis.

[c] The GMA has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for the interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

Statement of changes in equity[a]

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Accumulated surplus	Total
	$	$
Balance at 1 July 2024	**6,009,073**	**6,009,073**
Comprehensive result for the year	(309,822)	(309,822)
Balance at 30 June 2025	**5,699,251**	**5,699,251**
Balance at 1 July 2025	**5,699,251**	**5,699,251**
Comprehensive result for the year	(2,862,475)	(2,862,475)
Balance at 30 June 2026	**2,836,776**	**2,836,776**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

[a] This format is aligned to *AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

1. About this report

The Game Management Authority (GMA) is a public authority of the State of Victoria, established under the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*.

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the "Report of Operations" which does not form part of these financial statements.

The principal address is: Game Management Authority, Level 2, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* (AASB 1060) and *Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 101 Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* (FRD 101).

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates'.

These financial statements cover the GMA as an individual reporting entity. There is no entity consolidated into the GMA.

Certain prior year amounts in the notes have been reclassified to conform to current year's presentation. The reclassification has been made to better reflect the nature of the balances and does not affect the previously reported profit or loss, total assets, total liabilities, or equity.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest $1 unless otherwise stated.

Going Concern – Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria

The *Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria Act 2026* (FHOV Act) was enacted on 25 August 2026. The FHOV Act establishes a new entity, Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria (FHOV), which will combine the functions of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and the GMA.

FHOV is expected to commence operations on 1 April 2027 in accordance with the FHOV Act. Upon commencement, the assets, liabilities, functions and operations of the GMA are expected to transfer to FHOV as part of government-directed restructuring.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. In making this assessment, management has considered the FHOV Act and the expected transfer of the GMA's operations to FHOV. The GMA will continue to undertake its statutory functions and meet its obligations until the transfer occurs and there is no intention to cease operations or liquidate assets other than as part of the legislated transfer to FHOV.

The transfer is expected to occur at carrying value and is not expected to affect the ability of the GMA to realise its assets and discharge its liabilities in the ordinary course of operations prior to the transfer date. Accordingly, no adjustments have been made to the carrying values of assets and liabilities at 30 June 2026 as a result of the proposed transfer.

Further information regarding the establishment of FHOV and the expected transfer of the GMA's operations is disclosed in Note 8.7 Subsequent Events.

Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

2. Funding delivery of our services

Introduction

The purpose of the Game Management Authority (GMA) is to regulate through education, research and enforcement to achieve responsible and sustainable game hunting in Victoria in accordance with the *Game Management Authority Act 2014*.

To enable the GMA to fulfil the GMA's legislative mandate, it receives grants from the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR).

Structure

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	2026	2025
	$	$
Grants	9,725,664	11,594,552
Interest	443,806	458,444
Other income	440	18,819
Total income for transactions	**10,169,910**	**12,071,815**

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The GMA has determined that income of not-for-profit entities in the table above under AASB 1058 on the basis that it has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the GMA has an unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the GMA recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets or revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

The grant is provided for the operations of the Game Management Authority.

Interest income

Interest income includes interest received on funds held in the Victorian Government's Central Banking System (CBS). Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

Other income

Other income relates to Australian Taxation Office (ATO)'s refund, insurance claim and a refund to the GMA from past events.

3. The cost of delivering services

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Game Management Authority (GMA) in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost associated with provision of services are recorded.

Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
3.2 Other operating expenses

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Employee expenses	3.1.1	6,587,089	6,372,642
Other operating expenses	3.2	5,992,407	5,539,812
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		**12,579,496**	**11,912,454**

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2026 $	2025 $
Salaries and wages, annual leave and long service leave	5,976,652	5,804,153
Defined contribution superannuation expense	610,437	568,489
Total employee expenses	**6,587,089**	**6,372,642**

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of the defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accrued by employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2026 $	2025 $
Current provisions		
Annual leave	662,465	597,548
Long service leave	980,537	767,537
Provisions for on-costs	326,461	271,865
Total current provisions for employee benefits	**1,969,463**	**1,636,950**
Non-current provisions		
Employee benefits	168,386	177,558
Provisions for on-costs	33,712	34,573
Total non-current provisions for employee benefits	**202,098**	**212,131**
Total provisions for employee benefits	**2,171,561**	**1,849,081**

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave: Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the GMA does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the GMA expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the GMA does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability; even where the GMA does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the GMA expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the GMA does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

3.2 Other operating expenses

	2026 $	2025 $
Office expenses	1,765,137	2,189,196
Contractors and professional services expenses	2,385,738	1,773,150
Purchase of services from Department	915,570	742,199
Accommodation expenses	282,156	272,829
Fleet expenses	257,202	254,793
Travel and subsistence expenses	250,092	234,027
Community awareness and publicity	55,149	37,866
Equipment maintenance	81,363	35,752
Total other operating expenses	**5,992,407**	**5,539,812**

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

4. Key assets available to support service delivery

Introduction

The Game Management Authority (GMA) controls property and equipment that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the GMA to be utilised for delivery of those services.

Structure

4.1 Property and equipment
4.2 Intangibles

4.1 Property and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Buildings[(a)]	1,628,809	1,628,809	(1,089,275)	(893,590)	539,534	735,219
Motor Vehicles [(a)]	980,562	949,466	(615,985)	(526,076)	364,577	423,390
Leasehold improvements at fair value	590,292	590,292	(480,655)	(418,006)	109,637	172,286
Equipment at fair value	244,673	244,673	(223,127)	(212,887)	21,546	31,786
Net carrying amount	**3,444,336**	**3,413,240**	**(2,409,042)**	**(2,050,559)**	**1,035,294**	**1,362,681**

Note:

[(a)] As a result of a change in FRD 104 *Leases* effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026 right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 has been restated. For further information, refer to Note 8.2.

Items of equipment and leasehold improvements are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

The following tables are subsets of property and vehicles by right-of-use assets:

4.1.1 Total right-of-use assets: buildings and vehicles

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2026	2025
	$	$	$	$	$	$
Buildings	1,628,809	1,628,809	(1,089,275)	(893,590)	539,534	735,219
Motor Vehicles	980,562	949,466	(615,985)	(526,076)	364,577	423,390
Net carrying amount	**2,609,371**	**2,578,275**	**(1,705,260)**	**(1,419,666)**	**904,111**	**1,158,609**

	Buildings	Motor Vehicles
	$	$
Opening balance - 1 July 2025[(a)]	**735,219**	**423,390**
Additions	-	135,241
Disposals	-	(30,273)
Depreciation	(195,685)	(163,781)
Closing balance - 30 June 2026	**539,534**	**364,577**

Note

[(a)] As a result of a change in FRD 104 *Leases* effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026 right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 has been restated. For further information, refer to Note 8.2.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees – initial measurement

The GMA recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Right-of-use asset – subsequent measurement

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The GMA depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of right-of-use assets is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*.

Impairment of right-of-use assets

The GMA has assessed all right-of-use assets for impairment, and no indicators of impairment are identified as at 30 June 2026.

Impairment of property and equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* , with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

All property, equipment and vehicles that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life: years
Leased right-of-use assets and improvements	2 to 10
Plant, equipment and vehicles (including leased assets)	3 to 10
Intangible assets	3 to 5

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the GMA obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives.

4.1.3 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

2026	Buildings $	Equipment and Leasehold improvements $	Motor vehicles $	Total $
Opening balance	**735,219**	**204,072**	**423,390**	**1,362,683**
Additions	-	-	135,241	135,241
Disposals	-	-	(30,273)	(30,273)
Depreciation	(195,685)	(72,890)	(163,781)	(432,356)
Closing balance	**539,534**	**131,182**	**364,577**	**1,035,295**

4.2 Intangible assets

2026	Computer software $	Total $
Gross carrying amount		
Opening balance	**99,350**	**99,350**
Closing balance	**99,350**	**99,350**
Accumulated amortisation		
Opening balance	**(55,884)**	**(55,884)**
Amortisation of intangible produced assets	(24,838)	(24,838)
Closing balance	**(80,722)**	**(80,722)**
Net book value at end of financial year	**18,628**	**18,628**

Initial recognition

Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. When the recognition criteria in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets* is met, internally generated intangible assets are recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use, that is, when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Subsequent measurement

Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives, are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment whenever an indication of impairment is identified.

Significant intangible assets

The GMA has capitalised software development expenditure for the development of its IT Education System. The carrying amount of the capitalised software development expenditure is $18,628 (2025: $43,466). Its useful life is four years and will be fully amortised in 2027.

5. Other assets and liabilities

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Game Management Authority's (GMA) operations.

Structure

5.1 Receivables
5.2 Payables
5.3 Other non-financial assets

5.1 Receivables

	2026 $	2025 $
Contractual		
Sale of goods and services	-	11,700
Amount owing from Victorian Government	91,711	-
Statutory		
GST input tax credit recoverable	45,443	46,931
Total receivables	**137,154**	**58,631**
Represented by:		
Current receivables	137,154	58,631

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets and amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The GMA holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments. The GMA applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost.

Statutory receivables at amortised cost are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As the result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months of expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

5.2 Payables

	2026 $	2025 $
Contractual		
Supplies and services	91,981	224,358
Amount owing to Victorian Government	1,415,086	5,105,049
Accrued salaries	61,585	38,152
Statutory		
Accrued workcover payable	348	161
Accrued Fringe Benefits Tax	-	(5,551)
Total payables	**1,569,000**	**5,362,169**
Represented by:		
Current payables	1,569,000	5,362,169

Payables consist of:

- **contractual payables:** classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for supplies and services provided to the GMA prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid.
- **statutory payables** recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. The terms and conditions of amounts payable to the government and agencies vary according to the particular agreements and as they are not legislative payables, they are not classified as financial instruments.

5.3 Other non-financial assets

	2026 $	2025 $
Current other assets		
Prepayments	286,562	119,430
Total other non-financial assets	**286,562**	**119,430**

Other non-financial assets include prepayments, which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or the payments made for services covering a term extending beyond that financial accounting period.

6. Financing our operations

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Game Management Authority (GMA) during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the GMA.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances). Notes 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

6.1 Borrowings
6.2 Leases
6.3 Cash flow information and balances
6.4 Commitments for expenditure

6.1 Borrowings

	2026 $	2025 $
Current borrowings		
Lease liabilities[(a)]	441,572	504,298
Total current borrowings	**441,572**	**504,298**
Non-current borrowings		
Lease liabilities[(a)]	547,788	757,665
Total non-current borrowings	**547,788**	**757,665**
Total borrowings	**989,360**	**1,261,963**

Note:

(a) Secured by the assets leased. Lease liabilities are effectively secured as the rights to the leased assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

'Borrowings' refer to motor vehicle and building lease liabilities.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. Interest bearing liabilities are classified at amortised cost and recognised at the fair value of the consideration received directly attribute transactions costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Terms and conditions of borrowings

	Weighted average interest rate	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	Maturity dates				
				< 1 month	1-3 months	3-12 months	1-5 years	5+ years
	(%)	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
2026								
Lease liabilities	2.98	989,360	1,040,818	37,977	75,954	347,191	579,697	-
Total		**989,360**	**1,040,818**	**37,977**	**75,954**	**347,191**	**579,697**	**-**
2025								
Lease liabilities	2.20	1,261,963	1,339,122	43,720	87,439	398,652	809,312	-
Total		**1,261,963**	**1,339,122**	**43,720**	**87,439**	**398,652**	**809,312**	**-**

The GMA operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

Interest expense

	2026 $	2025 $
Interest expense on lease liabilities	39,930	37,809
Total interest expense	**39,930**	**37,809**

'Interest expense' includes costs incurred in the interest component of lease payments. Interest expense is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

6.2 Leases

6.2.1 Right-of-use assets

The GMA leases various buildings and motor vehicles. The lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-5 years with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments are renegotiated at the end of the lease term.

Leases of IT equipment are either short-term and or/leases of low-value items. The GMA has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 4.1.1.

6.2.2 Recognition and measurement of leases as a leasee

For any new contracts, the GMA considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the GMA assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations which are whether:

- the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the GMA and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- the GMA has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the GMA has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- the GMA has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

Lease Liability – initial measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the GMA's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Lease Liability – subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right of use asset is already reduced to zero.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The GMA presents right-of-use assets as 'property and equipment' (refer to note 4.1). Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet (refer to note 6.1).

Future lease payments

	Minimum future lease payments[(a)]	
	2026	2025
	$	$
Not longer than 1 year	450,724	512,836
Longer than 1 year but not longer than 5 years	557,976	761,339
Longer than 5 years	-	-
Minimum future lease payments	**1,008,700**	**1,274,175**
Less future finance charges	(19,340)	(12,212)
Present value of minimum lease payments total	**989,360**	**1,261,963**

Note:

[(a)] Minimum future lease payments include the aggregate of all base payments and any guaranteed residual.

6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank.

For the cash flow statement presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents are indicated below.

	2026	2025
	$	$
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet	6,089,059	12,588,256
Balance as per cash flow statement	**6,089,059**	**12,588,256**

6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. Where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

Nominal Amounts 2026

	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years	Total
	$	$	$	$
Other commitments payable	1,789,587	2,166,766	-	3,956,353
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	**1,789,587**	**2,166,766**	**-**	**3,956,353**
Less GST recoverable from the Australian Tax Office				359,668
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)				3,596,685

Nominal Amounts 2025

	< 1 year	1-5 years	> 5 years	Total
	$	$	$	$
Other commitments payable	997,191	1,357,730	-	2,354,921
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	**997,191**	**1,357,730**	**-**	**2,354,921**
Less GST recoverable from the Australian Tax Office				214,084
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)				2,140,837

7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Introduction

The Game Management Authority (GMA) is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a high level of judgement to be applied, which for the GMA related mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
7.3 Fair value determination

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the GMA's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract. Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in *AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Categories of financial assets
Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the GMA to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The GMA recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits; and
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired
- the GMA retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement
- the GMA has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
  - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset
  - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the GMA has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the GMA's continuing involvement in the asset.

Categories of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The GMA recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- borrowings (including lease liabilities).

7.1.1 Financial instruments: Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

2026	Carrying amount	Net gain/(loss)	Total interest income/ (expense)	Fee income/ (expense)
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Cash and Deposits	6,089,059	-	443,806	-
Trade receivables [(a)]	91,711	-	-	-
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**6,180,770**	**-**	**443,806**	**-**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost				
Trade payables [(a)]	1,568,652	-	-	-
Borrowings				
Lease liabilities	989,360	-	39,930	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**2,558,012**	**-**	**39,930**	**-**

Note:

[(a)] The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

2025	Carrying amount	Net gain/(loss)	Total interest income/ (expense)	Fee income/ (expense)
Financial assets at amortised cost				
Cash and Deposits	12,588,256	-	458,444	-
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**12,588,256**	**-**	**458,444**	**-**
Financial liabilities at amortised cost				
Trade payables [(a)]	5,329,407	-	-	-
Borrowings				
Lease liabilities	1,261,963	-	37,809	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**6,591,370**	**-**	**37,809**	**-**

Note:

[(a)] The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets

The GMA has no contingent assets at 30 June 2026 (2025: $Nil)

Contingent liabilities

The GMA has no contingent liabilities at 30 June 2026 (2025: $Nil)

7.3 Fair value determination

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the GMA.

This section sets out information on how the GMA determines fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Buildings, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

7.3.1 Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The GMA determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

Property, plant and equipment is classified as Level 3.

How this section is structured:

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- valuation techniques
- details of significant assumptions used in the fair value determination.

7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Valuation techniques and significant assumptions of non-financial physical assets measured at fair value

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* amended AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* by adding Appendix F *Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities* . Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications are mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

For all assets measured at fair value, the GMA considers the current use is the highest and best use.

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined as follows:

Equipment and Leasehold improvements are held at fair value. When an asset is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

Description of significant assumptions applied to fair value measurement

	Valuation technique	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Equipment	Current replacement cost	A significant increase or decrease in the cost per unit of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
		A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
Leasehold improvements	Current replacement cost	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.

8. Other disclosures

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

8.1 Other economic flows included in net result
8.2 Changes in accounting policy
8.3 Responsible persons
8.4 Remuneration of executives
8.5 Related parties
8.6 Remuneration of auditors
8.7 Subsequent events

8.1 Other economic flows included in the net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions.

	2026 $	2025 $
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property and equipment	28,592	-
Total net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	**28,592**	**-**
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows		
Net (loss)/gain arising from revaluation of long service leave liability[(a)]	15,642	(4,596)
Total other (losses)/gains from other economic flows	**15,642**	**(4,596)**

Note:

[(a)] Revaluation gain/(loss) due to changes in bond rates.

8.2 Changes in accounting policy

8.2.1 Right-of-use assets

The GMA has made a change in accounting policy to change the measurement basis from the revaluation model to the cost model for the subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets arising from market leases, in accordance with the updated requirements under FRD 104.

Previously, the GMA had measured all right-of-use assets arising from market leases using the revaluation model under AASB 13. Following the change in accounting policy, the GMA will measure all right-of-use assets using the cost model. Right-of-use assets measured using the cost model are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of lease liability. Periodic revaluations are not required; however, the cost model requires annual impairment assessments in accordance with AASB 136.

Upon adoption of the cost model, the GMA has applied a modified retrospective approach. The approach takes the right-of-use asset's carrying amounts recorded under the revaluation model as at 30 June 2026 as the right-of-use asset's opening balances on application of the cost model.

The comparative information presented has been restated.

Right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases

The GMA is not required to make any adjustments to right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases, including peppercorn leases, as the GMA already measures these right-of-use assets using the cost model in accordance with AASB 16 and FRD 104, and are thus not impacted as a result of this accounting policy change.

Impacts on financial statements

On transition to the cost model, there was no impact on the GMA's financial statements. No impairment was identified by the GMA for the right-of-use asset held as at 30 June 2026.

8.3 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

Names

The persons who held the positions of Ministers and Accountable Officers in the GMA are as follows:

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Minister for Environment, Minister for Outdoor Recreation	The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP	1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Minister for Environment, Minister Outdoor Recreation	The Hon. Enver Erdogan MP	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Chief Executive Officer	Mr Graeme Ford	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Remuneration

The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Total remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer in connection with the management of the GMA during the reporting period was in the range: $270,000–$279,999 (2025: $260,000–$269,999).

The individuals who held the positions of Responsible Officers, other than the Ministers in the GMA are as follows:

Christopher Rose	Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Corrie Goodwin	Deputy Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Owen Cavanough	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Amanda Errington	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Kylie Warne	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Danielle Auldist	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Luke Wilson	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

The responsible persons, other than the Minister's total remuneration is shown below:

	2026 $	2025 $
Total remuneration[(a)]	**155,509**	**177,036**

Note:

[(a)] Board appointments are made by the Minister.

8.4 Remuneration of executives

The number of senior executive service members, other than Ministers and accountable officer, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits (as defined in AASB 119 *Employee Benefits*) in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered. Accordingly, remuneration is determined on an accrual basis.

Remuneration of senior executive officers	**2026 $**	**2025 $**
Total remuneration	**247,619**	**193,182**
Total number of executives	**1**	**1**
Total annualised employee equivalents [(a)]	**1**	**1**

Note:

[(a)] Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.5 Related parties

The GMA is a wholly-owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the GMA include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

The GMA received funding from the following:

	2026 $	**2025 $**
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	9,725,664	11,594,552
Total	**9,725,664**	**11,594,552**

The GMA made payments to:

	2026 $	**2025 $**
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	1,017,339	585,149
Victorian Fisheries Authority	583,813	508,546
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	151,684	150,962
CenITex	115,528	124,043
Department of Justice and Community Safety	82,029	37,482
Victorian Auditor-General's Office	38,400	31,500
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority	33,594	32,564
Total	**2,022,387**	**1,470,247**

Remuneration of key management personnel

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Responsible Minister receives.

	2026 $	2025 $
Total[(a)]	**432,680**	**447,782**

Note:

(a) KMPs are also reported in the disclosure of remuneration of executive officers (Note 8.3 and 8.4)

Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of state government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public, e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges.

Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the GMA and related party transactions previously disclosed, there were no related party transactions that were attributed to key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

	2026 $	2025 $
Victorian Auditor-General's Office		
Audit of the financial statements	38,400	33,400
Total remuneration of auditors	**38,400**	**33,400**

8.7 Subsequent events

The Establishment of Fishing, Hunting and Outdoors Victoria (FHOV)

The *Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria Act 2026* (the FHOV Act) was enacted on 25 August 2026. The FHOV Act establishes a new entity, Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria (FHOV), which will combine the functions of the VFA and the GMA.

FHOV is expected to commence operations on 1 April 2027 in accordance with the FHOV Act.

As part of the establishment of FHOV, it is expected that the assets, liabilities, commitments, rights and obligations of the GMA will transfer to FHOV on the commencement date. The functions and operations currently undertaken by the GMA are also expected to transfer to FHOV.

The transfer is expected to be accounted for in accordance with FRD 119A *Transfers through contributed capital*, with the transfer of net assets recognised as a direct adjustment to equity as contributions by owners.

This event is scheduled to occurred after the reporting date and is therefore a non-adjusting event. Accordingly, no adjustments have been made to the amounts recognised in these financial statements as at 30 June 2026.

The financial effect of the transfer cannot yet be reliably estimated, as the detailed transfer arrangements, including the assets and liabilities to be transferred, are subject to final implementation planning and confirmation prior to the commencement of FHOV.

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Note:

[(a)] References to FRDs have been removed from the Disclosure Index if the specific FRDs do not contain requirements that are of the nature of disclosure.

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