

# Sustainable Hunting Action Plan

Quarterly Progress Report – June 2017

The Victorian Government released its \$5.3 million Sustainable Hunting Action Plan in December 2016. Government is getting on with the job of implementing this plan through practical actions that maximise benefits for hunters, the environment, the economy, and the whole Victorian community.

## PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE HUNTING

The cornerstone of responsible hunting is making sure that hunters are well educated and trained in responsible, safe and sustainable hunting practices. Promoting responsible hunting is the responsibility of government, hunting organisations, the shooting industry and hunters.

## EDUCATING AND TRAINING NEW HUNTERS

We have delivered a comprehensive new hunting manual 'Game Hunting in Victoria' to over 50,000 game licence holders. This publication provides all hunters, new and old, with information that will help make them more knowledgeable, responsible, involved and better-trained hunters. We will be continuing to improve and update the hunting manual online with video and interactive content to make the information even more useful, informative and up to date.

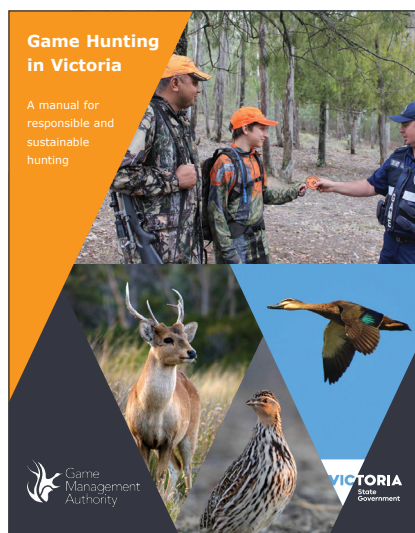
## WORKING WITH HUNTING STAKEHOLDERS

We are working closely with hunting organisations and retail businesses to distribute hunting information such as the new hunting manual and 'Respect: Hunt Responsibly' material. Assistance from these organisations and businesses helps ensure hunters are provided with accurate, important and current information at locations they are likely to visit like firearms stores or local clubs.

The Game Management Authority will continue to attend events like the 2017 Shot Show to provide compliance information and education material to existing and potential game licence holders.

## IMPROVING FIREARM CARRIAGE, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE COMPLIANCE

Firearm and ammunition storage is relatively straightforward at home. It can however become confusing when you have to carry, transport or store firearms and ammunition in a vehicle, campsite or in the field. The Government is providing \$110,000 for four years to the Firearm Safety Foundation (Vic) Inc. to develop simple information and relevant safety courses to help hunters comply with Victoria's firearm laws. This information will be developed with the assistance of Victoria Police.

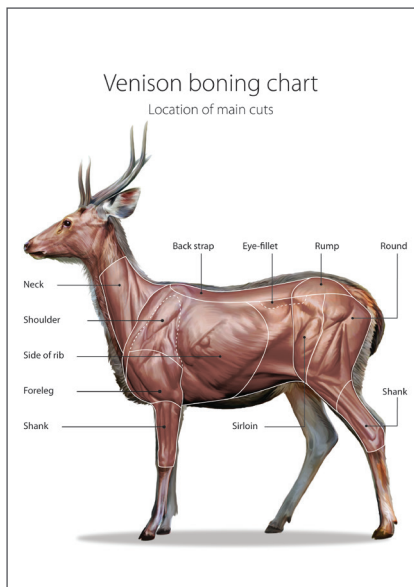


## GROWING HUNTING'S BENEFITS

The action plan seeks to maximise the social and economic benefits derived from hunting in Victoria.

### GAME MEAT PROCESSING

It should be the aim of all responsible hunters to minimise waste and maximise the use of harvested game. However, when some hunters are faced with over 100kg of deer to process the task of transforming that deer into choice cuts, mince or sausages may seem daunting. We are looking at options that will allow hunters to engage a service provider to process game meat for their personal consumption. We are also investigating ways to help farmers process problem deer they have shot on their property to ensure that game deer that are harvested are not wasted.



## IMPROVING HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

The Sustainable Hunting Action Plan will improve hunting opportunities by addressing the basic needs of hunters such as informing them about where they can hunt, improving access to hunting areas, providing new hunting opportunities, working with Traditional Owners and streamlining licensing.

## NEW SIGNS FOR STATE GAME RESERVES – IMPROVING HUNTING LOCATION KNOWLEDGE

Signage can play an important role in identifying hunting locations such as State Game Reserves. Signage that is confusing or inadequate in communicating permitted activities is frustrating for hunters and the general public. We will replace and update 168 signs at State Game Reserves across the state to ensure signage is correct and consistent.

### ONLINE GAME LICENSING SYSTEM

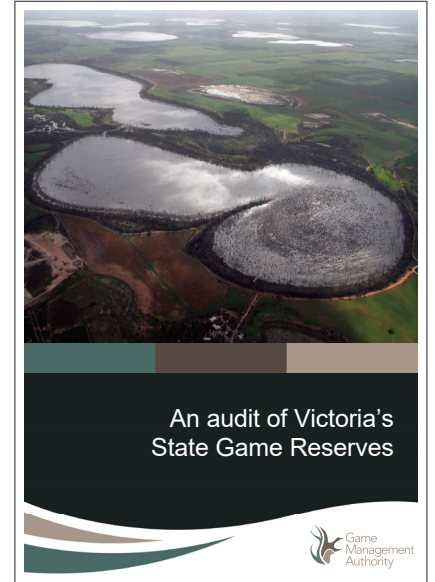
These days most people are comfortable with shopping or paying bills online. Online transactions allow people to conduct their business at a time and place that suits them. That is why the Game Management Authority is preparing a new online licensing system that will allow hunters to buy, renew and change licence information more conveniently.

## ENSURING SUSTAINABLE HUNTING

Sustainable hunting is about healthy, humane, responsible and safe recreational hunting opportunities. It relies on good science, research, and sound game, conservation and land management.

### IMPROVING STATE GAME RESERVES

The Government has completed an audit of Victoria's State Game Reserves in order to assess their current status. By understanding the issues and requirements at different reserves (e.g. pests, weeds, signage, access points, camp sites etc.) the Government will be better able to allocate resources to improve reserve habitats, infrastructure and facilities. There are 200 State Game Reserves in Victoria and they are some of the most popular duck hunting locations in the state, with some reserves also permitting deer and quail hunting. 'An audit of Victoria's State Game Reserves' can be viewed in the research section of the Game Management Authority website [gma.vic.gov.au](http://gma.vic.gov.au)



## SUPPORT THE NATIONAL HUNTING ARCHIVE

The National Hunting Archive is Australia's most comprehensive and valuable collection of works on the social history of hunting in Australia. The collection currently contains more than 4,500 books and 20,000 documents that demonstrate the role that hunting has played in Australia. Not only is this historical information an invaluable glimpse into the past but it can also be used to inform future hunting and game management strategies, research and policies. That is why the Government has provided \$40,000 in funding to Field and Game Australia to support the preservation of the National Hunting Archive through the cataloguing of the archive with a focus on making this information more widely accessible.