



## Participating in Parks and Wildlife pest animal control programs Information for recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups



**The Department of Parks and Wildlife undertakes pest animal control programs across 26 million hectares of department-managed lands, and where possible unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves, to reduce their impacts on biodiversity and other conservation values. Target species include feral goats and other large feral herbivores, feral cats, feral pigs and feral livestock, wild dogs, deer and foxes.**

Some pest animal control work is carried out in collaboration with other agencies or groups including the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, Recognised Biosecurity Groups, Catchment Councils and declared species groups.

Recognised hunting and shooting groups can become involved in the department's existing pest animal control programs. Groups who wish to become involved will need to provide an effective, safe and responsible service through the adoption of consistent and well defined management systems including signing a Memorandum of Understanding, works agreement, standardised guidelines and shoot plans.

- Through collaboration the department aims to; improve coordination with recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups; and
- ensure the safe and effective participation of these groups in pest animal control on department-managed lands.

### **When can recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups be involved?**

The department will involve recognised hunting and shooting groups in managing pest animals in areas;

- Where biodiversity or priority land management outcomes are the primary aims.
- When it is safe and cost effective and biodiversity outcomes can be achieved.





- The services of recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups will:
  - a. provide complementary support or parallel control effort to strategic pest animal management, for example ground shooting following an aerial control program, or a shooting program corresponding with baiting or trapping;
  - b. provide on-ground pest animal control to benefit biodiversity where the department's capacity or resources may be limited, for example large feral herbivore control on remote unallocated Crown land or former pastoral leases for biodiversity or Good Neighbour policy outcomes; or
  - c. remove pest animals to assist with tangible biodiversity or land management outcomes where a group adopts a conservation area.

### How can a recognised recreational hunting and shooting group get involved?

Recognised recreational hunting and shooting groups can become involved by applying to the department;

- Criteria that needs to be met by the recreational hunting and shooting groups before they can apply are:
  - a. The group needs to be an incorporated body
  - b. Have the necessary personal and public liability insurances
  - c. Complies with relevant legislation and accompanying regulations, including, but not limited to, the Firearms Act 1973 and the Animal Welfare Act 2002,
  - d. Documented Codes of Practice addressing the safe handling and use of firearms and animal welfare, and formal field operational guidelines acceptable to Parks and Wildlife's Corporate Firearms Officer,
  - e. Formal training or assessment program for its members that demonstrates an understanding of these Codes of Practice, and operational guidelines that ensure competency in marksmanship, target

species recognition, appropriate calibres for various pest animals, humane destruction of pest animals, working in remote areas, outback survival, communications and safety. Acceptable formal training and assessment standards will need to be consistent with those required of departmental officers, and

- f. accepts responsibility for the actions of its members while they are operating on department-managed lands.

### What is the process ?

Once a group applies and meets the established criteria listed above, the department will enter into a MoU with the Western Australian peak body of each recognised recreational hunting and shooting group. This will:

- a. provide a consistent approach to engagement and coordination of recognised groups,
- b. outline the respective roles and responsibilities of the MoU partners'
- c. provide detail of frameworks, Codes of Practice and formal operational guidelines the recognised group must have in place, and
- d. provide detail of the formal training and authorisation requirements of recognised group members.

The department will establish a works agreement with a recognised recreational hunting and shooting group that:

- a. details the specific objectives, time and place of the control operations,
- b. details the operational requirements that must be in place,
- c. requires the development of and adherence to a Shoot Plan agreed to by Parks and Wildlife,
- d. acknowledges the requirements of group operators whilst working on Parks and Wildlife lands, and
- e. requires reporting back of approved operations, outcomes and incidents by the group operators to Parks and Wildlife.

### What do you need to do to be involved?

If you would like to participate in this program, you can either work through your hunting or shooting group or contact the Parks and Wildlife Pests Program Coordinator for further details. Contact details are:

Pests Program Coordinator Ecosystem Health Branch,  
 Forest and Ecosystem Management Division  
 Department of Parks and Wildlife  
 PO Box 1693 BUNBURY Western Australia 6231

Phone: (08) 9725 4300

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