

# Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

## Briefing for Minister for Agriculture

<b>Subject</b>	Sustainable Hunting Action Plan – final report
<b>Decision date</b>	N/A

### Core message

The Sustainable Hunting Action Plan (SHAP) ended on 30 June 2020. Of the 22 SHAP actions, 15 have been completed, four are planned or proposed for late completion, two have been partially completed and one will not be completed. DJPR proposes to review the SHAP in consultation with stakeholders to inform the government's commitment to a second SHAP, pending confirmation of budget. There is an opportunity to report on the SHAP achievements, release some completed actions and reaffirm the government's commitment to develop a second plan.

Electronically evidenced by	Name	Date	Position	Phone no.
	<i>Name and details appear only after authorisation has been electronically evidenced</i>			
<b>Accountable Executive Officer</b>	Mark Sandiford (DJPR)	28/07/2020 07:53 AM	Director	
<b>Recommender</b>	Paul B Smith (DJPR)	28/07/2020 08:35 AM	Chief Adviser, Climate Change And Industry Transition	
<b>Notified of recommendation</b>	[Notify of recommendation full name and title]			

Forestry and Game			
REQUESTED <input type="checkbox"/>	DJPR REF: BMIN-2-20-5099	MINISTERIAL REF:	DATE DUE IN MO: N/A if not relevant

## Recommendation/s

**That you:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>a) <b>Note</b> the final report of the SHAP itemising progress against all 22 actions by all agencies (<b>Attachment 1</b>) and that the relevant Possible Parliamentary Question will be updated accordingly.</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noted<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Please Discuss</p>  |
| <p>b) <b>Agree</b> to report SHAP achievements in a media release to be developed with your office.</p>   | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Approved<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please Discuss</p> |
| <p>c) <b>Note</b> that DJPR will review the implementation of SHAP with a focus on identifying improvements for a second SHAP.</p>  | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noted<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Please Discuss</p>  |
| <p>d) <b>Note</b> that you will be briefed separately on opportunities arising from the completion of the SHAP action to develop a Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy.</p>                                    | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noted<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Please Discuss</p>  |

<p><b>To be notified of your decision:</b> [REDACTED] - Manager Policy; [REDACTED] - Senior Policy Analyst, Game Policy; Mark Sandiford (DJPR) - Director</p>
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<p><i>Noted by Office</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>Jaelyn Symes MP</b> <b>Minister for Agriculture</b> Date: <i>10 / 11 / 2020</i></p>	<p><b>Comments:</b></p>
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## Key information

### 1. The \$5.3 million Sustainable Hunting Action Plan (SHAP) 2016-2020 to support and guide the game hunting industry's long-term growth has concluded

- a) Various departments and agencies were responsible for 22 actions in the SHAP, including DJPR, the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria (PV) and the Game Management Authority (GMA).
- b) The completion status of each action is shown in Table 1 below. A final report of the delivery of each SHAP action by each agency is provided at **Attachment 1**.

**Table 1 – Summary status of SHAP actions**

Objective	Number of actions	Completed	Planned or proposed for late completion	Partial completion	Not completed
Objective 1 – Promote responsible hunting	6	5			1
Objective 2 – Grow hunting's benefits	4	3		1	
Objective 3 – Improve hunting opportunities	6	4	1	1	
Objective 4 – Ensure sustainable hunting	6	3	3		
	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Notes		Not yet released: 2.3 Economic study 3.5 TO Game Mgt Strategy	3.6 Game Licensing System 4.1 Research (AHM) 4.3 Deer Mgt Strategy 4.6 Hunting Archive	2.2 Meat processing at butchers 3.2 Access to SGRs	1.5 Hunting code

### 2. Fifteen actions have been completed and there are opportunities to launch recently completed actions

- a) Significant achievements of the SHAP include increased information and education materials for hunters, game meat processing advances, release of hunting maps, signage and access for hunters, increased hunting opportunities on State Game Reserves (SGRs) and grazing land, new research and monitoring and habitat improvements.
- b) The Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy (SHAP Action 3.5) has been completed and a separate brief seeks your approval to release it (**BMIN-2-20-5168**).
- c) The Economic Contribution Study, action 2.3, has been completed and a separate brief seeks your approval to release it (**BMIN-2-20-4896**).

### 3. Four actions are proposed or planned for late completion and can be considered achievements of the SHAP

- a) The GMA has undertaken numerous research projects under Action 4.1, many of which are published. The Adaptive Harvest Model (part of Action 4.1) was delayed while awaiting an expert panel report, and you have approved finalisation of the model and implementation in 2020 (**BMIN-2-19-2098**).
- b) The Deer Management Strategy (Action 4.3) has been rebadged as the Deer Control Strategy. DJPR understands the strategy is due for imminent release subject to the joint approval of the Minister for Environment, Energy and Climate Change and yourself. DJPR is working with DELWP on a possible funding proposal for the strategy. DELWP will be largely responsible for the delivery of the Deer Control Strategy.
- c) Two other items are planned for completion later in 2020:

- i. The GMA's Game Licensing System (Action 3.6)
- ii. Cataloguing the National Hunting Archive (Action 4.6).

**4. Two actions are partially complete and one, new Hunting Codes, will not be completed**

- a) PV partially completed access improvements (Action 3.2), improving access to seven SGRs. Five reserves are landlocked and could not be addressed in this project.
- b) PV did not complete access improvements to a further 40 SGRs that had been prioritised with DJPR, DELWP and game hunting representatives for access improvements via licensed, unused roads. This is because they required purchase of freehold land for road access that could not be achieved within budget, were inaccessible or PV was unable to do works as PV was not the manager of those reserves.
- c) DJPR will work with PV, DELWP and game hunting organisations to prioritise works to provide access to selected additional SGRs by June 2021, however it is not possible to deliver all of the access improvements identified during SHAP.
- d) Two of three stages to facilitate game meat processing (Action 2.2) were completed. However the third, to allow deer hunters to take game carcasses to a licensed butcher for processing for personal use, was explored but not implemented.
- e) Development of new Hunting Codes (Action 1.5) is not selected for completion. A new Animal Welfare Act is being developed and this reform will enable new hunting codes to be developed in the future.

**5. Unspent funds will be redirected to progress or complete selected SHAP or related actions**

- c) PV is expected to return \$800,000 in unspent funds due to the challenges set out at paragraph 4(a).
- d) These funds will be redirected to:
  - i. Completion and first year of implementation of the Adaptive Harvest Model - \$500,000 (**BMIN-2-19-2098**)
  - ii. The Eastern Shooting Complex feasibility study - \$65,000 (**BMIN-2-20-5295**)
  - iii. Traditional Owner (TO) Game Management Strategy implementation plan (**BMIN-2-20-5168** in progress)
  - iv. Review of SHAP as set out below.

**6. Communications will be prepared with your office to report on SHAP achievements, including a media release and website update**

- a) There would be opportunities to release the Economic Study, the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy and the GMA's Hog Deer distribution report.
- b) A draft website update is included at **Attachment 2**.

**7. Stakeholders are anticipating a second SHAP and you could announce a consultative review as a first step towards this**

- a) A second SHAP is a 2018 election commitment, however budget postponement will delay the start of a consultative process to develop the objectives and actions with stakeholders.

- b) DJPR proposes to commission an independent, collaborative post-implementation review of SHAP in 2020. This would lay the groundwork for collaborative development of a second SHAP, should it be funded in the forthcoming state budget.

### Financial Implications

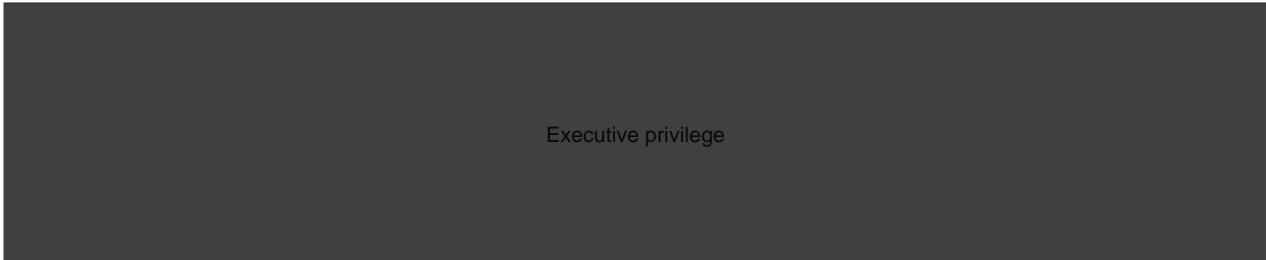
- a) Are there any financial implications associated with this matter?

Yes       No

### Context/Consultation

8. All participating agencies were consulted in the preparation of Attachment 1

9.



10. SHAP funding

- a) The SHAP 2016 to 2020 was announced in December 2016 and output funding of \$3.4 million over four years and asset funding of \$1.9 million was included in the 2016-17 State Budget. Additional funding of \$127,985 was provided in early 2018 to develop the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy and a hunting map set.

Electronically evidenced by	Name	Position
	<i>Name and details appear only after authorisation has been electronically evidenced</i>	
Lead Author		Senior Policy Adviser

### Attachments

No.	Attachment name
1	Overview of SHAP action outcomes
2	Draft website update – SHAP actions

## Attachment 1

### Sustainable Hunting Action Plan (SHAP)

#### Final Outcome Report – by agency

Action	Responsible Agency	Final status	<b>Status</b>  Complete  Partial / non delivery
<b>1.1.1 Provide better access to information</b> — through a single comprehensive hunting website.	GMA	<p>The comprehensive hunting website is operational with secondary agencies developing and maintaining content and links hosted on the GMA website.</p> <p>Since 1 Jan 2016, Videos on the GMA YouTube page had a combined total of:</p> <p>257,553 views            15,312 watched hours.            1,389 shares            3.34 min average view duration            There are currently 46 uploaded videos.</p> <p>In October 2019, the GMA rebuilt its entire website to provide a better user experience. The rebuild was based on research from relevant user groups. Since then, the website has received 218,000 visits by 132,000 people (1 July 2020),</p>	
<b>1.1.2 Provide better access to information</b> — an improved distribution network for a new hunting manual.	GMA	<p>The hunting manual was mailed to all game licence holders in 2017. The GMA has distributed thousands of copies of the manuals at other strategic locations, including hunting retail stores, departmental offices, the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SSAA) Shot Expo and to hunting organisations. This was updated and a second edition was provided on the GMA website in November 2018.</p> <p>'Introduction to game hunting' leaflet was produced and has been made available to all new game licence applicants since July 2017.</p> <p>Since 2020 all applications that sit either a Waterfowl Identification Test or a Hunting Test receive an education package.</p>	
<b>1.1.3 Provide better access to information</b> — through upgrading of the game licensing system to allow for more targeted messaging to hunters.	GMA	<p>This will occur once the new licensing system is implemented later in 2020. See action 3.6. This is not recorded as non-delivery as it is captured at 3.6.</p>	

Action	Responsible Agency	Final status	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #92d050; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Complete           <div style="width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #f4a460; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Partial / non delivery         </div>
<b>1.2 Educate and train new hunters</b> — by reviewing and releasing a comprehensive manual on how to hunt in Victoria.	GMA	<p>The hunting manual was released and mailed in June 2017 to all licensed game hunters. 80,000 copies were distributed.</p> <p>The electronic version of the hunting manual is periodically updated.</p>	
<b>1.3 Improve compliance and enforcement</b> — through a clear compliance policy and agreed standards for compliance across all government departments and agencies.	GMA	<p>In May 2020, the GMA released its Compliance and Enforcement Policy which sets out the GMA's risk-based approach to compliance and enforcement when undertaking the regulatory, investigative and disciplinary functions conferred on it by or under the Wildlife Act 1975 and the Conservation Forests and Lands Act 1987.</p> <p>The policy followed an interagency forum chaired by the GMA which examined the development of the compliance policy which includes agreed standards across agencies (Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Fisheries Victoria, DELWP and GMA).</p> <p>Passage of the Primary Industries Legislative Amendment Bill confirmed GMA can appoint Authorised Officers.</p> <p>Accountability Framework advice was provided for consideration in December 2019.</p>	
<b>1.4.1 Work with hunting stakeholders</b> — to continue delivering the 'RESPECT: Hunt Responsibly' program.	GMA	<p>'RESPECT' is an ongoing program of consultation and initiatives that is incorporated into all GMA communication and extension material.</p> <p>All major firearm importers, peak hunting organisations and key government agencies are party to the program.</p> <p>Important messages have been delivered across a variety of mediums, from meat bags, hound leads, licence wallets, stickers and industry advertising.</p> <p>The principles that support the program can be found at:  <a href="https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/respect-hunt-responsibly">https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/respect-hunt-responsibly</a></p>	
<b>1.4.2 Work with hunting stakeholders</b> — to expand distribution of hunting information to hunting organisations and retail businesses.	GMA	<p>In addition to material available on the GMA website, GMA provides literature and video products to hunting organisations and hunting retail outlets.</p> <p>A standardised education package for new hunters undertaking licence tests has been developed and will be delivered for the Waterfowl Identification Tests.</p>	
<b>1.4.3 Work with hunting stakeholders</b> — to attend relevant outdoor events to promote responsible hunting.	GMA	<p>GMA has attended all relevant outdoor or hunting related events including events to promote responsible hunting. This includes having a regular stand at the annual Wild Deer and Hunting Expo, the Seymour Field Day and the biannual SSAA Shot Show. In addition, GMA has had stands at the Speed Field day and the inaugural Hamilton Rural Show. Annually, approximately 20,000 people come through the GMA stands.</p>	

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<p><b>1.5 Update hunting-related welfare codes</b> – to ensure hunting practices are humane and encourage the considerate treatment of animals that are hunted and used for hunting.</p>	<p>DJPR – Animal Welfare Victoria</p>	<p>AWV has undertaken an initial review and identification of key issues for consultation. Further work on the two Hunting COP's will be undertaken during the reform of Victoria's animal welfare legislation, once the primary legislation has been established.</p> <p><b>The development of new animal welfare Act for Victoria has commenced. This reform will enable the development of new hunting codes.</b></p>	
<p><b>1.6 Improve firearm carriage, transport and storage compliance</b> – by working with Firearms Safety Foundation (Victoria) to develop information and run relevant safety courses.</p>	<p>DJPR – Game Policy</p>	<p>A grant of \$440,000 over four years was been provided to the Firearm Safety Foundation (Vic) to develop firearm safety information.</p> <p>The Firearm Safety Foundation (Vic) undertook a review of the Firearm Safety Code, developed firearm safety best practice guidelines and worked with the GMA to deliver a range of other firearm safety communications including a set of education clips that focus on the RESPECT program and firearms safety.</p> <p>Grant of \$440,000 over four years provided to the Firearm Safety Foundation (Vic) to develop <u>firearm safety information</u>.</p> <p>Completion of the Firearms Safety Code books which have been delivered to Victoria Police stores and the remainder stored by Firearms Safety Foundation (Vic).</p> <p>Firearm Safety Better Practice guidelines developed– after convening a facilitated workshop with Victoria Police and other government agencies.</p> <p>Firearms Safety Foundation in conjunction with the GMA produced and published five educational you tube clips on safe firearm storage and use.</p> <p>Produced 10,000 gun safe magnets the reinforced safety messages as well as messages form Victoria Police and the GMA. These magnets were distributed at major industry shows.</p> <p>Large gun safe magnets regarding illegal deer shooting, storage and public safety will be completed by September 2020.</p> <p>Produced a firearm safety page which was included in 80,000 copies of the Victorian Hunting Manual, distributed to all licensed game holders.</p> <p>Produced key messages on ricochet for duck hunters. This was included int the GMA's dispatch guideline animation.</p> <p>Firearms Safety Foundation (Victoria) is expecting to produce a large-scale firearms safety DVD as the main teaching aid for the Firearms Safety long arms course by September 2020.</p>	

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<b>2.1 Improve seasonal announcements</b> — by effectively communicating information to stakeholders when seasonal variations are required, or areas are temporarily closed to hunting.	GMA	<p>The GMA released its Facebook page in March 2018. As at 1 July 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 353 posts to Facebook have been published by GMA</li> <li>▪ 11,068 people like the page</li> <li>▪ 12,309 people follow the page</li> </ul> <p>Some posts reach in excess of 80,000 people.</p> <p>The GMA uses this platform, combined with other mediums to communicate with stakeholders</p>	
<b>2.2 Facilitate game meat processing</b> - by investigating and reducing barriers to the processing of wild harvested game meat to allow optimal use of game harvest.	DJPR – Game Policy and Agriculture Victoria	<p>Removed regulatory barriers so farmers can now dispose of problem deer and commercial field harvesters and meat processors can process deer for human and pet consumption.</p> <p>Legislative changes were made to enable recreational hunters to have wild deer processed for their personal consumption by certain unlicensed providers.</p> <p>A third stage of reform, to allow harvesters to take game carcasses to a licensed butcher to process for the harvester's personal use, was not implemented .</p>	
<b>2.3 Monitor social and economic benefits</b> – by conducting a study every five years to determine the contribution of hunting to the economy.	DJPR – Game Policy	<p>RMCG was engaged to deliver the report on the economic contribution of hunting. The final report is being considered by the Minister for Agriculture.</p> <p>The report found that the gross contribution from recreational hunting by game licence holders in Victoria in 2019 was \$356M. This is made up of \$160M of direct contributions and \$196M in flow-on economic activity.</p>	
<b>2.4 Promote regional hunting opportunities</b> – through targeted communication with relevant regional agencies and organisations.	DJPR – Game Policy	<p>Targeted communication was undertaken on an in-kind basis to explore opportunities to promote regional hunting opportunities.</p> <p>DJPR worked with the Towong Shire Council, as part of the draft deer management strategy, to consider a model for developing hunting tourism plans, however no council-based hunting tourism plans were ultimately developed.</p> <p>Tourism Vic was engaged to promote hunting tourism but did not progress hunting promotions in its communications programs</p>	
<b>3.1.1 Improve hunting location knowledge</b> - by developing a map set for Victoria showing where different game and pest hunting can occur on public land.	DELWP	<p>Hunting maps were released in 2019 showing where hunting of game and pest species is permitted on public land in Victoria.</p> <p>The hunting map information is also available on the More to Explore mobile App.</p>	

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<b>3.1.2 Improve hunting location knowledge</b> - by improving signage on State Game Reserves.	PV	<p>Based on the GMA State Game Reserve audit, Parks Victoria has delivered 330 new and upgraded site identification signs and regulatory totems at 130 of 199 SGRs across Victoria. Parks Victoria undertook its own audit following the GMA's of identified SGR's to determine sign location for cultural heritage purposes, confirmation of placement to ensure they were located within the correct land tenure as well as if additional signs could be included at alternate access points.</p> <p>50 new site identification signs and regulatory totems have been produced for State Game Reserves that only have access via licensed unused roads.</p>	
<b>3.1.3 Improve hunting location knowledge</b> - by improving signage on other public land where hunting is permitted including National Parks.	PV DELWP	<p>150 new signs have been installed to improve hunter information in State Forest locations. Parks Victoria has installed 33 deer hunting location signs in traditional deer hunting parks and reserves at high priority access points. A workshop was held with hunting groups to determine the most appropriate location for these signs as well as information from local Parks Victoria staff. Parks Victoria have installed a further 9 signs within high use deer hunting camping areas as described in the Alpine National Park Management Plan and include information on responsible firearm usage within and around campgrounds.</p>	
<b>3.2.1 Provide better hunting access</b> - by improving physical access to State Game Reserves.	PV	<p>Parks Victoria has improved access to 7 State Game Reserves that had undefined, ambiguous or locked access gates. These SGR's had access that abutted a road frontage and were considered 'priority 1' SGR's to address first.</p> <p>A working group comprising of PV, DELWP and DJPR was established to move forward with improving access to 40 identified SGR which have access via licensed unused roads.</p> <p>Access to the remaining sites was not able to be provided in the timeframe and budget due to costs and process times associated with purchasing freehold land for road access, inaccessibility and because road reserves are managed by DELWP.</p> <p>Parks Victoria commenced work with DELWP to facilitate access solutions and improvements, but further time is needed to deliver long-term outcomes.</p> <p>There are 5 SGR's that are landlocked by private land and will require land purchase to provide access for hunters. These reserves could not be addressed in this project.</p>	
<b>3.2.2 Provide better hunting access</b> - by reviewing opportunities to use existing helipad facilities.	DELWP	<p>DELWP completed the review of helipads. It is currently implementing the results of that review by developing operational procedures for the use of helipads for hunting.</p> <p>DELWP will deal with requests on a case by case basis as it develops these procedures</p>	
<b>3.3 Expand pest hunting</b> – by exploring opportunities by game licence holders at State Game Reserves.	DELWP	<p>Changes were made to the <i>Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014</i> to allow recreational hunters to allow foxes, hares and rabbits to be hunted on State Game Reserves during the open season for duck hunting.</p>	
<b>3.4.1 Expand game hunting</b> - by removing restrictions on hunting other specific deer species in areas reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i> where Sambar Deer hunting already permitted.	DELWP	<p>An additional 90,000ha of Victoria's Alpine National Park was opened for recreational hunting of deer and additional species of deer able to be hunted.</p>	

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<b>3.4.2 Expand game hunting</b> – by exploring options to expand hunting in consultation with traditional owners, land managers and relevant stakeholders.	DELWP	DELWP has advised that this action is incorporated as part of its core business.	
<b>3.5.1 Partner with Traditional Owners</b> - to continue to build participation in land management and conservation.	DELWP	DELWP has advised that this action is incorporated as part of its core business , which includes the development of Natural Resource Agreements and Joint Management Planning implemented in accordance with Recognition and Settlement Agreements between the State and Traditional Owners.	
<b>3.5.2 Partner with Traditional Owners</b> - to develop a Victorian Traditional Owner Game Hunting Strategy.	DJPR – Game Policy	<p>The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations received a grant of \$85,000 to lead development of the Strategy including consultation with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>The Strategy has been finalised with further work to be undertaken to explore how it could be released as part of SHAP 2.</p> <p>Funding would be required to implement the strategy.</p>	
<b>3.6 Develop an online game licensing system</b> —that allows online processing and payment of game licences.	GMA	<p><b>See Action 1.1.3</b></p> <p>Additional funds have been provided through GMA redirection. Project is currently on track to be completed by October 2020</p> <p>This will also enable more targeted information to be provided to licence holders, which will deliver part of action 1.1.</p>	
<b>4.1.1 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation</b> — by developing a game species research strategy to better understand the distribution, abundance and recruitment of game species and the impact of hunting activity.	GMA	<p>The draft research priorities strategy has been provided to the Minister for Agriculture.</p> <p>Funding options to implement the priorities are currently being investigated.</p>	
<b>4.1.2 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation</b> — by researching land and habitat management techniques to benefit native game species.	GMA	The GMA is working with Parks Victoria to research land and habitat management and monitor impacts of hunting with local ecosystems at the SGR demonstration sites.	

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<p>4.1.4 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation — by assessing relationships between hunting seasons and local ecosystems around hunting reserves.</p>	GMA	<p>Completed research actions include: 2017 deer harvest report.</p> <p>The Victorian Game Hunting Licence holders survey, which focused on how hunters want to be communicated with and what game hunting topics are of importance to them.</p> <p>Study into the impacts of disturbance on game ducks and other waterbirds</p> <p>The GMA is currently in discussion with suitable Universities to engage an appropriate researcher to undertake various studies into habitat management and hunting impacts.</p>	
<p>4.1.3 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation — by tagging, banding and monitoring game to better understand movements and breeding cycles.</p>	GMA	<p><b>Gamebird ageing field guide</b> Final Field Guide completed</p> <p><b>Movement and habitat use of Stubble Quail</b> Arthur Rylah Institute engaged, and research design completed. The recommended approach to monitoring is being reconsidered. GMA will host a forum with interstate agencies and key stakeholders into ways to monitor quail abundance, distribution and productivity in 2020.</p> <p><b>Blue-winged Shoveler as a game species</b> Arthur Rylah Institute engaged to consider existing data sources and provide recommendations on an approach to determine the long-term status of this species as game. The report has been made public. Further research is required but is currently unfunded. AHM may provide insights to the species conservation.</p> <p>Additional funding is likely to be required for Blue-winged Shoveler research.</p> <p><b>Hog Deer distribution and abundance</b> Arthur Rylah Institute has been engaged and sampling began in November 2019 with the assistance of hunting organisations. The report has been completed.</p>	
<p>4.1.5 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation — by implementing the Waterfowl Conservation Harvest Model to ensure the sustainable management of game ducks.</p>	GMA	<p><b>Waterfowl Conservation and Harvest Model review</b></p> <p>Joint review of the Waterfowl Conservation and Harvest Model has been undertaken in conjunction with NSW DPI.</p> <p>An expert panel reviewed the model and delivered its report to Government and the Minister for Agriculture is considering the report.</p> <p>Funds have been provided to enable monitoring to occur in October 2020, ahead of the delayed State Budget.</p> <p>Ongoing funding will be required to complete the model and impelment it on an ongoing basis.</p>	

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<b>4.2.1 Improve State Game Reserve habitat</b> — by building on an audit of all State Game Reserves.	GMA	All SGRs have been audited and audit results published (in hard copy and on GMA website). Copies of the report have been provided to relevant Ministers, Departmental Secretaries and PV	
<b>4.2.2 Improve State Game Reserve habitat</b> – by developing management principles to maintain quality habitats.	PV	PV has developed the management principles in consultation with hunting organisations.	
<b>4.2.3 Improve State Game Reserve habitat</b> - by establishing two demonstration sites in collaboration with hunting organisations where the new management principles will be put into practice.	PV	<p>Three sites have been selected including Dowd Morass State Game Reserve, McDonalds Swamp State Game Reserve and Tang Tang Swamp State Game Reserve.</p> <p>Works at Tang Tang swamp to improve water retention and access was delivered in collaboration with the Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises. This included modelling to construct a levee bank in the reserve to enable more complete flooding of the reserve and longer retention of environmental water. This project was an great example of collaborative delivery with Traditional Owners for cultural and environmental outcomes.</p> <p>McDonald Swamp State Game Reserve –Site meetings were held with stakeholders to identify site issues and opportunities to improve habitat. Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners were engaged to undertake rubbish clean up at the site and cultural assessment reports for installation of a new water regulator slashing of Phragmites to improve access habitat diversity. This contract was partially delivered, with works to complete Phragmite slashing deferred to 20/21 due to environmental water being delivered in 19/20 that prevented full contract delivery.</p> <p>Dowd Morass State Game Reserve – Planned works included habitat manipulation trials, site clean up (removal of hundreds of discarded tyres) and protection of important Aboriginal Cultural Heritage sites from the impacts of deer in the reserve. The habitat manipulation trial program was cancelled due to the potential presence of EPBC listed species, however site clean-up was delivered and cultural heritage sites to be protected identified by Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners and mapped. Protective exclusion fencing will be installed at these sites in 20/21.</p>	
<b>4.3 Develop a deer management strategy</b> – that sets a strategic plan to maintain sustainable hunting opportunities while reducing the impact of deer on biodiversity on all land tenures of the state.	DJPR DELWP	<p>A draft Deer Management Strategy was released in October 2018 for public consultation.</p> <p>Work is progressing to finalise and release a final Strategy for agreement by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and the Minister for Agriculture. This is expected to be finalised and released in 2020.</p> <p>Funding is required to implement the strategy.</p>	
<b>4.4 Improve control programs</b> - by working with accredited volunteer shooters to contribute to pest and deer control programs by establishing additional agreements with hunting organisations.	PV	<p>Parks Victoria has ongoing programs with Australian Deer Association and the Sporting Shooters Association Australia (Vic) for pest and deer control programs across the state.</p> <p>Hunting organisations are likely to seek funding to continue the control programs in SHAP 2.</p>	

Action	Responsible Agency	Final status	<b>Status</b>  Complete  Partial / non delivery
<b>4.5.1 Improve data collection</b> — by exploring new methods and technologies to collect hunting activity information.	GMA	<p>The GMA has implemented a new program to better understand duck hunters' opening weekend bag.</p> <p>In addition, the GMA has refined the approach for the current annual harvest surveys conducted for both deer and game birds. The changes to this survey provides more data on the species composition of gamebird hunters and also provides a better break-down of different hunting methods and their efficacy, for deer hunting.</p>	
<b>4.6 Support the National Hunting Archive</b> – by helping the Archive to develop an electronic catalogue system of historical information that can be accessed by the public.	DJPR	<p>A grant has been provided to the Wetlands Environmental Taskforce Trust to develop the electronic catalogue system.</p> <p>The work is 90% complete, however COVID-19 restrictions prevent face-to-face work with the archivist to load and test the platform. This is expected to be completed in the next few months, pending any further COVID-19 restrictions. .</p>	

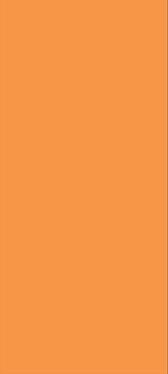
## Attachment 2

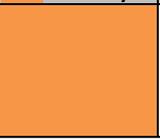
### Sustainable Hunting Action Plan (SHAP)

Draft website update

Action	Agency	Status (Not for website)	Draft website text <a href="https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan">https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan</a>
<b>Promoting Responsible Hunting – 5 of 6 completed; 1 not completed</b>			
1.1 Provide better access to information	GMA	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game Management Authority hunting website complete.</li> <li>• <i>An introduction to game hunting</i> brochure provided to all new Game Licence applicants.</li> <li>• <i>Game Hunting in Victoria</i> manual provided to over 50,000 licensed game hunters and distributed at hunting retail stores, industry expos (SSAA Shot and Wild Deer) and to hunting organisations.</li> <li>• Release of new <a href="#">GMA Facebook page</a>.</li> </ul>
1.2 Educate and train new hunters	GMA	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Game Hunting in Victoria</i> manual mailed out to over 50,000 licensed game hunters distributed at hunting retail stores, industry expos (SSAA Shot and Wild Deer) and to hunting organisations.</li> <li>• <a href="#">An introduction to game hunting brochure</a> provided to all new Game Licence applicants.</li> <li>• <a href="#">An introduction to better gamebird hunting brochure</a> produced and available in hardcopy and electronically.</li> <li>• Electronic version of the <a href="#">Game Hunting in Victoria manual</a> available.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Be a better gamebird hunter – Shotgunning Education Program Handbook</a> 2<sup>nd</sup> edition produced and available in hardcopy and electronically.</li> <li>• The Gamebird Hunting Essentials Masterclass which was developed to increase the proficiency of hunters and subsequently reduce wounding losses in game bird hunting.</li> </ul>
1.3 Improve compliance and enforcement	GMA	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Compliance Managers forum with GMA, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, VFA, EPA and DELWP established.</li> <li>• Changes to the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 to require hunters to recover game birds and game bird meat.</li> <li>• Legislative changes to clarify that the GMA can appoint Authorised Officers.</li> </ul>

Action	Agency	Status (Not for website)	Draft website text <a href="https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan">https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan</a>
1.4 Work with hunting stakeholders	GMA	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Respect: Hunt Responsibly' campaign delivered with industry, hunting organisations and partners.</li> <li>• Promotion of responsible hunting at events including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stand at SSAA Shot Expo 2017</li> <li>○ Duck Fever and Hound Registration Days</li> <li>○ ADA Hunter Education Weekend</li> <li>○ Snake Island Ballot</li> <li>○ Wild Deer Hunting Guiding and Fishing Expo 2018.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1.5 Update hunting-related welfare codes	DJPR Animal Welfare Victoria	Partial / non delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of new animal welfare Act for Victoria has commenced. This reform will enable the development of new hunting codes in the future.</li> </ul>
1.6 Improve firearm carriage, transport and storage compliance.	DJPR	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant of \$440,000 over four years provided to the Firearm Safety Foundation (Vic) to develop <a href="#">firearm safety information</a>.</li> <li>• Firearm Safety Code review and new Code books.</li> <li>• Firearm Safety Better Practice guidelines developed.</li> <li>• Creation of YouTube videos on key safety messages.</li> <li>• Development of firearm safety information and awareness.</li> <li>• Find out more about the <a href="#">Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria)</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Growing hunting's benefits – 3 of 4 completed, 1 partially completed</b>			
2.1 Improve seasonal announcements	GMA	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Game Hunting App used to communicate seasonal variations, wetland closures and openings.</li> <li>• Release of new <a href="#">GMA Facebook page</a>.</li> <li>• Production and distribution of various fact sheets explaining seasonal conditions, regulatory changes and promoting responsible hunting.</li> <li>• Letters sent to all duck hunters in 2018 to advise of changes to regulations.</li> <li>• Redevelopment of the Game Hunting Victoria phone app.</li> <li>• Redevelopment and upgrades to the GMA website.</li> </ul>
2.2 Facilitate game meat processing	DJPR	Partial / non delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed regulatory barriers so farmers can now dispose of problem deer and commercial field harvesters and meat processors can process deer for human and pet consumption.</li> <li>• Find out more about these <a href="#">changes to commercial processing of wild deer</a>.</li> <li>• Legislative changes enabled recreational hunters to have wild deer processed for personal consumption by certain unlicensed providers.</li> <li>• Feasibility of removing barriers that prevent deer hunters taking deer to retail butchers was explored, however this was not implemented.</li> </ul>

Action	Agency	Status (Not for website)	Draft website text
			<a href="https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan">https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan</a>
		 Complete Partial / non delivery	
2.3 Monitor social and economic benefits	DJPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An economic study was commissioned to determine the contribution of hunting to the economy. Access the <a href="#">Estimating the economic impact of hunting in Victoria in 2019 study (PDF)</a>.</li> </ul>
2.4 Promote regional hunting opportunities	DJPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities to promote regional hunting opportunities were explored with Towong Shire Council .</li> <li>Improved opportunities for deer hunting considered as part of the draft deer management strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Improving hunting opportunities – 4 of 6 completed, 1 for completion in 2020 and 1 for partial late completion by June 2021</b>			
3.1 Improve hunting location knowledge - by	DELWP and Parks Victoria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New hunting maps showing where hunting of game and pest species is permitted on public land in Victoria are now available both as web based maps and on the More to Explore phone app. See the <a href="#">new hunting maps</a>.</li> <li>Replacement and upgrade of 360 new signs and information totems at 130 State Game Reserves and Parks that permit deer hunting across Victoria.</li> <li>New signs to improve hunter information in State Forest locations.</li> </ul>
3.2 Provide better hunting access	DELWP and Parks Victoria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved access to 7 State Game Reserves which had undefined or locked access points.</li> <li>Review of opportunities to use existing helipad facilities in the alpine region for hunting.</li> <li><a href="#">Audit of State Game Reserves</a> completed by the GMA and made available.</li> <li>Further access improvements to additional State Game Reserves that are completely landlocked or landlocked with licenced easement will be completed by June 2021 in consultation with hunting stakeholders.</li> </ul>
3.3 Expand pest hunting	DELWP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes made to the Wildlife (State Game Reserves) Regulations 2014 to allow recreational hunters to allow foxes, hares and rabbits to be hunted on State Game Reserves during the open season for duck hunting.</li> <li>Learn more about <a href="#">hunting pest animals on state game reserves</a>.</li> </ul>
3.4 Expand game hunting	DELWP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An additional 90,000ha of Victoria's Alpine National Park opened for recreational hunting of deer and additional species of deer able to be hunted.</li> <li>Learn more about <a href="#">improved access for deer hunting in eastern Victoria</a>.</li> </ul>
3.5 Partner with Traditional Owners	DELWP and DJPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant of \$85,000 provided to the Federation of Traditional Owner Corporations to lead development of a Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy in consultation with Traditional Owners.</li> <li>The Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy is due for release in 2020.</li> </ul>

Action	Agency	Status (Not for website)  Complete Partial / non delivery	Draft website text <a href="https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan">https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan</a>
3.6 Develop an online game licensing system	GMA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of new Game Licensing System is currently underway. Stakeholders were consulted about this in early 2020 and it will be available to hunters in 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>Ensuring sustainable hunting – 3 of 6 completed, 3 for completion in 2020</b>			
4.1 Undertake research, monitoring and evaluation	GMA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint review of the Waterfowl Conservation and Harvest Model has been undertaken in conjunction with NSW DPI.</li> <li>Research methodology in the movement and habitat use of Stubble Quail developed.</li> <li>Initial review of Blue-winged Shoveler as a game species.</li> <li>2017 deer harvest report.</li> <li>The Victorian Game Hunting Licence holders survey, which focused on how hunters want to be communicated with and what game hunting topics are of importance to them.</li> <li>The following research was published by the GMA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Game Research Strategy</li> <li>Study into the impacts of disturbance on game ducks and other waterbirds</li> <li>Gamebird aging field guide.</li> <li>Implementation of movement and habitat use of Stubble Quail program.</li> <li>Outcomes of Hog deer distribution and abundance project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Waterfowl Conservation and Harvest Model (Adaptive Harvest Model) will be implemented in 2020.</li> </ul>
4.2 Improve State Game Reserve habitat	GMA and Parks Victoria		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <a href="#">Audit of State Game Reserves</a> completed by GMA and made available.</li> <li>Management principles to maintain quality habitats for hunting are complete.</li> <li>Demonstration sites to apply new management principles have been selected including Dowd Morass State Game Reserve, McDonalds Swamp State Game Reserve and Tang Tang Swamp State Game Reserve.</li> <li>Habitat improvement works have commenced on these sites and will continue in 2020-21.</li> </ul>
4.3 Develop a deer management strategy	DJPR and DELWP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft strategy was released for public consultation in October 2018.</li> <li>A Deer Control Strategy will be released in XX 2020.</li> </ul>

Action	Agency	Status (Not for website)  Complete Partial / non delivery	Draft website text <a href="https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan">https://djpr.vic.gov.au/game-hunting/action-plan</a>
4.4 Improve control programs	PV		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding of \$300,000 over four years provided to the ADA to deliver control programs.</li> <li>• Control programs were delivered with SSAA and ADA including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 12 projects with the ADA</li> <li>○ 30 projects with the SSAA.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.5 Improve data collection	GMA		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to method for hunter opening weekend bag surveys.</li> <li>• GMA has refined the approach for annual harvest surveys for deer and game birds</li> <li>• Survey of Game Licence holders to better understand demographics and communication needs</li> </ul>
4.6 Support the National Hunting Archive	DJPR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant of \$40,000 provided to the Wetlands Environmental Taskforce Trust to develop electronic catalogue system of historical information.</li> <li>• Work to develop the catalogue database was delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions and is planned for completion shortly.</li> </ul>