

Native game bird management in NSW - information for hunters

October 2015

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Game Licensing Unit manages the harvest of native game birds in NSW. If you want to hunt ducks through the **Native Game Bird Management Program**, you must hold a NSW Game Hunting Licence and have completed the Waterfowl Identification Test.

The NSW Native Game Bird Management Program allows licensed hunters to help landholders manage the impacts of native game birds on agricultural crops.

The program encourages the use of retrieving dogs, callers and decoys and the utilisation of harvested native game birds.

Fast facts

- Able to harvest up to 10 species of duck on authorised properties.
- Decoys and callers are encouraged.
- Waterfowl Identification Test improved and standardised nationally.

Get involved – get licensed

Step 1

If you are not already licensed, a **NSW General or Restricted Game Hunting Licence** is the first step towards getting involved.

For more information on how to get a NSW Game Hunting Licence, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or phone the Game Licensing Unit Customer Service Team on 02 6391 3750.

If you have already completed the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT), make sure you attach a copy of your WIT certificate or your Victorian Game Licence card that has your WIT number printed on it.

Step 2

You must **pass the national Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)**.

To organise to sit the WIT, fill in *Form GB-W Expression of Interest – Waterfowl Identification Test* from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting or contact the Native Game Bird Support Team on 03 5874 2983.

Step 3

Verify your Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) number with the Game Licensing Unit.

If you are already licensed but have not supplied your WIT number to the DPI Game Licensing Unit, fill in *Form GB-A Native Game Bird Management Update* so we can verify your completion. Update forms are available at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting.

We will need to verify your WIT number unless you can provide us with a copy of your WIT certificate or your Victorian Game Licence card that has your WIT number printed on it. Verification may take around one week.

Authorised species

The following species may be taken on individual properties where a quota has been approved for their harvest:

- Australian Shelduck or Mountain Duck (*Tadorna tadornoides*)
- Australian Wood Duck or Maned Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
- Black Duck or Pacific Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)
- Blue-winged Shoveler or Australasian Shoveler (*Anas rhynchotis*)
- Chestnut Teal (*Anas Gracilis*)
- Grass Whistling Duck or Plumed Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*)
- Grey Teal (*Anas gracilis*)
- Hardhead Duck or White-eyed Duck (*Aythya australis*)
- Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)
- Water Whistling Duck, Wandering Whistling Duck or Whistling or Wandering Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)

Hunting under the program

The NSW Native Game Bird Management Program sets a benchmark for individuals who hunt native species. Once you are licensed, you must abide by the following requirements:

- only hunt on properties covered by a Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence.
- have express authority to hunt from the landholder or occupier.
- carry the Native Game Bird Hunter Diary that will be sent to you when your WIT number is verified.
- record quota and harvest information in the Hunter Diary each time you hunt for each property you access.
- submit your harvest return to the Game Licensing Unit within 14 days of hunting.

Native Game Bird Portal

Native game bird property quotas and harvest reports are online. Once we have verified your WIT number you are sent a Native Game Bird Hunter Kit with your Hunter Diary along with details about accessing the Native Game Bird Portal. The portal is part of online services and is restricted to NSW Game Hunting Licence holders who are authorised to hunt native game birds.

A list of landholders who need assistance is available through the portal. Landholder information is only posted on the portal at the request of the landholder.

If you are able to hunt during the week, you may also place your details on the Hunter Register for landholders to contact you.

More information

Contact the Native Game Bird Support Team for more information on native game bird hunting in NSW.

Phone 03 5874 2983 | Email gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au | Website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting

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