

# Native game bird management in NSW - information for landholders

October 2015

## Fast facts

- Landholders are not required to provide harvest returns (unless they harvest native game birds themselves).
- Landholders, members of their household and their employees are required to hold a NSW Game Hunting Licence and pass the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) if harvesting native game birds.
- All costs associated with NSW Game Hunting Licences and the WIT are waived for landholders.
- Specialist landholder support from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Game Licensing Unit's Native Game Bird Support Team.

The DPI Native Game Bird Management Program allows landholders to manage the impacts of native game birds on agricultural production in NSW. Licensing of hunters participating in the program benchmarks the hunting of native game birds in NSW while allowing their volunteer assistance to continue.

If you need to manage native game birds on your land, you can apply for a **Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence**. Licences can only be granted for *sustainable agricultural management purposes* and you need to provide details about the species and numbers that require management when you apply.

**Sustainable agricultural management purposes** means those activities that contribute positively to farm, regional and the state's productivity and economy; that adaptively manage and enhance biological and physical resources and support the State's regional and rural communities.

## How to apply

There are two ways you can apply for a Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence:

1. opt-in for a licence on your SunRice *Rice Seed Order Form & Paddy Supply Offer for the 2016 Crop*.
2. fill in *Form GB-B Application for a Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence*.

**There is no fee for a Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence.**

### Applying through SunRice

- Read the Crop Seed Circular.
- **Opt-in** on your *Rice Seed Order Form & Paddy Supply Offer for the 2016 crop*.
- Select a quota allocation.
- SunRice will give DPI information about the licence and quota you want and also some property spatial information.
- Depending on your choice of quota and whether you already have a licence, the Native Game Bird Support Team may need to phone you.
- DPI then activates your licence and quota.

## Using the DPI form

- Specify a licence term – this can be a one year term or multiple years (licences may be issued for up to five years, however for those issued with a term of more than one year you will need to reapply for native game bird property quotas each year).
- Provide details of each property where you need native game birds managed (you can list more than one property on your licence).
- Provide details of the species and their numbers that need to be removed from each of your properties (this will help determine the native game bird quotas that are linked to your licence).

Once you have provided all the information required, **make sure you read, understand and sign the declaration.**

Visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting) to download an application form or contact the Native Game Bird Support Team on [gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or 03 5874 2983.

## Quotas for native game bird species

The properties covered by your licence will be assessed for a quota each year based on the information you give to us. A quota can be issued for the following species:

- 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 castanea*)
- 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*)

If a quota has not been issued for a particular species, they may not be hunted on your land.

## Licensed hunters

Licensed hunters can help you to manage native game birds on your land, once you are covered by a Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licence and have a current quota. If you intend to hunt game birds yourself, you also need to be a licensed hunter.

All you need to do is give your express authority to licensed hunters you would like to allow onto your land, they are responsible for finding out your quota and then reporting their harvest.

## Landholders who hunt

Landholders, members of their household and their employees must hold a NSW Game Hunting Licence and pass the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) if they wish to hunt native game birds as part of this program. All fees and costs associated with a NSW Game Hunting Licence and the WIT are waived in this instance.

The program seeks to benchmark the hunting of native game bird species to ensure that individuals can identify target game bird species and protected species.

## Passing the Waterfowl Identification Test and obtaining a NSW Game Hunting Licence

We conduct Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT) assessments specifically for landholders, members of their household or their employees at various locations throughout the Riverina (and other locations on request) in the lead up to the rice growing season.

To register your interest in obtaining a WIT qualification, download **Form GB-W – Expression of Interest: Waterfowl Identification Test** from [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting). A support officer will then contact you with details about sitting the test.

If you believe you have already completed the WIT please contact the Native Game Bird Support Team for verification on 03 5874 2983 or [gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Landholders, members of their household or their employees who have passed the WIT can obtain a General Game Hunting Licence simply by submitting **Form B7 – Application for a NSW General Game Hunting Licence (Native Game Bird Management Licence Holder)**. The unit will process your application and post you a licence within 20 working days.

The normal fees associated with the WIT and obtaining a NSW Game Hunting Licence are waived for landholders, members of their household or employees participating in this program.

## The Native Game Bird Support Team

A special support team working from the Riverina is available if you need information or assistance. You can contact the Native Game Bird Support Team for:

- advice about managing hunters to ensure they operate in a legal, safe and responsible manner when hunting native game birds as part of this program.
- tracking native game bird property quotas for you and applications for any property quota increases you need.
- obtaining a NSW Game Hunting Licence and undertaking the WIT to hunt under the program yourself (including the waiving of associated fees).

## How is the program regulated?

DPI Compliance Officers will actively monitor hunters throughout the rice growing season to ensure they operate legally, responsibly and safely. Joint operations with NSW Police and wildlife management agencies may also be conducted in certain areas.

## More information

For landholder assistance with Native Game Bird Management (Owner/Occupier) Licences, NSW Game Hunting Licences, sitting the WIT or property quota inquiries contact the Native Game Bird Support Team on 03 5874 2983 or [gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gamelicensing.southern@dpi.nsw.gov.au).

For general information on the NSW Game Hunting Licences contact the Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750, [game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting).

For licensing and permits associated with the killing of any other native waterfowl species, please contact the Office of Environment and Heritage Wildlife Licensing and Management Unit on 02 9585 6406, [wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:wildlife.licensing@environment.nsw.gov.au) or visit [www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/wildlifelicences).

---

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development, 2015. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Primary Industries as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (October 2015). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

Published by the Department of Primary Industries.