

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Thursday, 23 April 2020

GAME ON FOR 2021 WITH ONE-YEAR HUNTING LICENCE EXTENSION

Victoria's 50,000-plus recreational game hunters will be compensated for lost hunting opportunities with the Andrews Labor Government set to extend all current game licences by one year.

In recognition of the unprecedented impact on Victoria's game hunters caused by mandatory social distancing measures, the expiry date of all current game licences administered by the Game Management Authority will be extended by 12 months, allowing hunters to get full value of their one- or three-year licence fee.

Health directives and restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic have already impacted game hunting seasons for hog and sambar deer, stubble quail and gamebirds.

In response to public health advice, the GMA has also postponed all waterfowl identification tests and hound hunting tests until further notice. Anyone who has already booked a test will have their booking fee refunded.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer has advised that to help slow the spread of coronavirus, people must not leave their property to go hunting.

Current State of Emergency measures to slow the spread of coronavirus remain in place until 11 May.

Duck hunting season opens on May 2. From that time, duck hunting other than on a property that you live on will not be able to be conducted until relevant restrictions are lifted.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes

"We thank hunters for staying home and doing the right thing as we all work together to slow the spread of coronavirus – it's been challenging and frustrating, but it's working."

"This is a practical initiative that will mean hunters won't need to seek to renew their licences for 12 months beyond when they were due to expire."