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Fact Sheet

▶ The Game Council NSW has been specifically formed to help manage game species and help control feral animals, as well as promote responsible and orderly hunting of those animals.

▶ More than 95 per cent of New South Wales is inhabited by some species of wild or feral animal (1). Feral animals left unmanaged can adversely affect the environment and agricultural production.

▶ Rural Lands Protection Board rangers currently spend some 60 per cent of their time eradicating feral and pest animals (1).

▶ Foxes, rabbits and pigs are the most abundant pest animals in NSW. Wild deer have not been included in previous State-wide surveys and have been identified as moderately abundant and emerging in importance as a game animal (1).

▶ World wide, game hunting plays an integral role in land management plans and is recognised as an important and legitimate tool in nature conservation.

▶ NSW Agriculture studies recommend that hunting can be appropriately incorporated into pest control plans. Currently 22 per cent of the feral pig population is culled by hunters. A further 8 per cent is managed by commercial hunters (1). The Game Council NSW aims to decrease the feral pig population further through a formal licensing system applying to Crown Lands.

▶ Nearly \$69 million per annum was generated in Australia by deer hunters through tourism and associated industries (3).

▶ In New South Wales and adjoining states, there are more than 250,000 hunters (4).

▶ 'Game' by definition is animals living in the wild including deer, California quail, pheasant, partridge, peafowl, and turkey. Feral animals are classified as pig, wild dog (not dingo), cat, goat, rabbit, hare and fox (2).

▶ Under the Game Council's licensing system, people will not need a game license to hunt feral animals on private property. A licence will be required to hunt feral animals on public land. Hunting of game will require a licence on both public and private land.

▶ Any hunter who wishes to hunt in State Forests or Crown land will need to buy a NSW Game Hunting Licence (Restricted). Hunters wanting to hunt deer, some species of game birds or waterfowl on private land also will need to purchase a NSW Game Hunting Licence (General).

▶ Licensed game hunters will not hunt in National Parks. Holders of NSW Game Hunting Licences (Restricted) will need to pass a licensing test and abide by a Code of Practice in order to hunt on State declared public land.

(1) NSW Agriculture Pest Animal Survey 2002, Peter West & Glen Saunders

(2) New South Wales Government, Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 No 64

(3) Economic Values of recreational deer hunting in Australia, Myron Cause, Nov 1990, Griffith University, Brisbane

(4) Game Council NSW