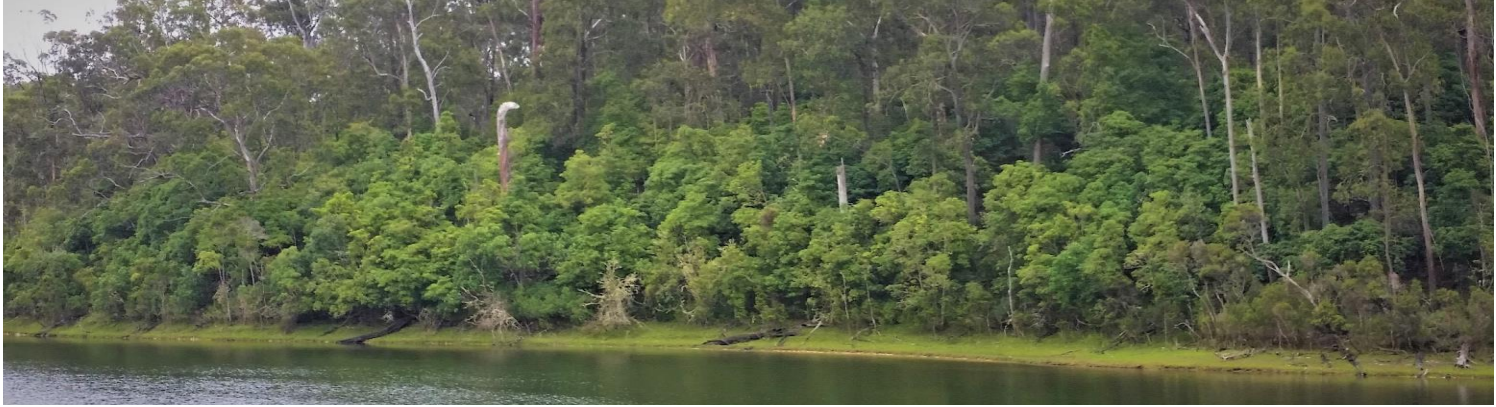


Lake Tyers Deer Management Trial



What is the Lake Tyers Deer Management Trial?

The trial aims to continue delivering a deer control program across both public and private land in partnership with land managers and private landowners in the Lake Tyers area of East Gippsland.

Funded by the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning Initiative, the trial is being delivered over a three-year period and led by the East Gippsland Conservation Management Network (EGCMN) in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria, private landowners and recreational hunting groups. The trial area covers approximately 50,000 hectares.

Why do we need a deer management trial?

Deer have become a significant land management issue in East Gippsland with reports of deer destroying crops, damaging fences, tracking and pugging soils causing erosion and reducing water quality, while reports of serious road incidents involving deer in East Gippsland are increasing. Deer are also damaging native vegetation - including threatened species and rainforest, and degrade the aesthetic values of the natural environment.

Minimal management and control actions are currently undertaken within the trial area. Around a third of the project area is currently open to recreational hunting. However, without any coordination or monitoring to evaluate control effort or outcomes, deer numbers continue to increase.

Over the three years of the trial, monitoring of deer occupancy and vegetation condition will be undertaken to identify changes resulting from deer control.

While the recent bushfires have impacted deer numbers, they are expected to recover rapidly and expand in the medium to long term.

How can hunters be involved?

We are seeking assistance with deer management from Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) or Australian Deer Association (ADA) accredited and licensed hunters to be part of a targeted and coordinated trial. Hunters can participate in the trial in several ways including supporting private landholders to undertake deer control or by hunting in State Forest and reporting their results.

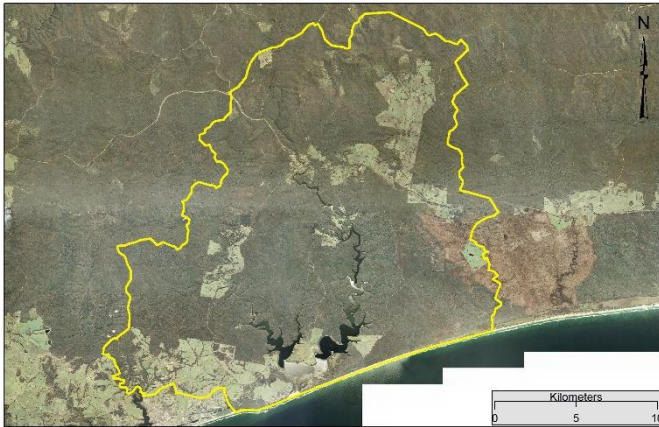
Hunters need to be an accredited member of the SSAA or ADA for insurance purposes to participate in the trial in areas covering private property, and hold the appropriate game licence when hunting on public land public land.



Where is the trial area?

The trial area is shown in the map below and takes in the townships of Lake Tyers Beach, Toorloo Arm, Nowa Nowa, Wairewa, Tostaree and the western parts of Lakes Entrance, Bunga Creek and Harrison Trk.

Deer control trial area



What deer are allowed to be hunted?

Sambar deer are the target species for management on public and private land in the project area.



Other information hunters need to know

Carcass management is a high priority and the trial will continue to encourage hunters to use the deer including the meat, hide and antlers.

Where carcass utilisation is not possible, burial facilities will be established at strategic locations.

Introductions and partnerships between accredited hunters and private landowners will be facilitated by the trial team.

All hunting activities on private land will be coordinated in close consultation with landholders and will only proceed on private land with the written approval of the landowner/manager. Detailed property plans will be prepared and neighbours notified to ensure all activities are conducted safely and ethically.

Hunting Hog Deer is not part of this project. Contact the Game Management Authority for information about this species and hunting regulation in Victoria www.gma.vic.gov.au.

To learn more about the trial, register your interest or to become accredited, contact:

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ISBN 978-1-76077-683-1 (pdf/online/MS word)

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