

Lake Tyers Deer Management Trial



What is the Lake Tyers Deer Management Trial?

This trial will continue delivering a deer control program across both public and private land over the next two years in the Lake Tyers area of East Gippsland.

East Gippsland Conservation Management Network (EGCMN) is delivering the trial in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria, private landowners and recreational hunting groups.

The trial is being delivered under the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning Initiative.

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 (outside this trial) are currently undertaken within the project 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.

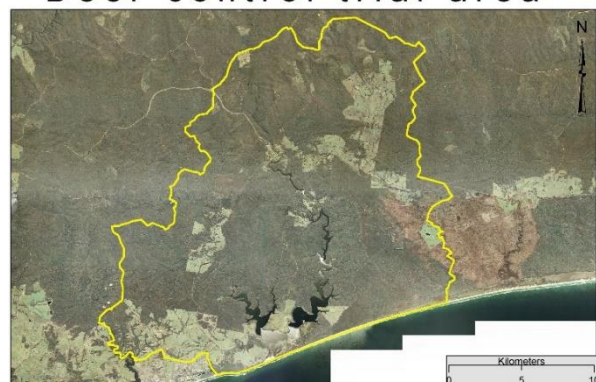
While the recent bushfires have impacted deer numbers, they are expected to recover rapidly and expand in the medium to long term.

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

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 Track.

Deer control trial area



Information Sheet for Landowners

Landowner participation

Following successful control activities around Wairewa and Tostaree in 2019, additional landowners are now being encouraged to participate in the trial by allowing deer management activities on their land.

Introductions and partnerships between accredited hunters and private landowners are being facilitated by the trial team. All hunting activities 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. All activities will be compliant with Victorian firearm and hunting regulations.

New regulations now permit 'commercial harvest' and sale of deer meat from private land. The trial team are working with commercial operators, where feasible, to coordinate commercial harvest on private property in the trial area.

Landowners are also encouraged to conduct approved deer management measures on their land and to provide details back to the trial team for reporting and monitoring purposes.



What deer can be hunted?

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

Other information landowners need to know

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 need to be an accredited member of the SSAA or ADA for insurance purposes to participate in the trial in areas covering private property.

We recognise that carcass management is a high priority and the trial will encourage hunters to use all parts of the deer including the meat, hide and antlers.

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

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

To learn more about the trial and register your interest, visit www.egcmn.org.au or contact:

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