

## MINUTES OF THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL MEETING 20 MARCH 2017

### Held at Conservation House 18-32 Manners Street Wellington

**Present:** Don Hammond (Chair), Geoff Kerr, Bill O'Leary, Garry Ottmann, Steve McFall, Carol Watson, Roger Duxfield, Alec McIver, Terry Pierson

Jenny Wotten (Executive Officer)

**Also in attendance:** Minister Dunne, Martin Kessick, Michelle Edge OSPRI, Nick Hancox OSPRI, Matthew Hall OSPRI, John Brinsley-Pirie, Ben Reddiex DOC, Ellen Walsh DOC

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** Don Hammond welcomed Councillors and visitors. Minister Dunne, John Brinsley-Pirie, Michelle Edge and her team from OSPRI joined the meeting later. Alec McIver & Steve McFall arrived late due to flights.

**Apologies:** Mark Brough

<b>Motion 14/1:</b> Moved Don Hammond/Terry Pierson: That apologies be accepted.	CARRIED
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**2. Agenda:** Add discussion about the Government's announcement that from 1 April 2017, the Environmental Protection Agency will now oversee the regulations for the use of poisons like 1080 and brodifacoum.

<b>Motion 14/2:</b> Moved Don Hammond/Garry Ottmann: That the agenda be amended.	CARRIED
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Ben Reddiex explained the Health and Safety procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting 16 December 2016:** were taken as read.

<b>Motion 14/3:</b> Moved Roger Duxfield/Terry Pierson: that the Minutes of the 16 December 2016 Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.	CARRIED
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#### 4. Matters arising from Minutes not on agenda:

- a. **Bait types** – Ben Reddiex circulated an email dated 13.3.17 showing all 2016 BfOB aerial 1080 operations, as well as the bait size and application used. Bill O'Leary has forwarded this information to NZDA members.
- b. **NZPHGA Training Academy's Training Manual** – was endorsed at the GAC's Meeting on 26 September 2016, letter to go to NZPHGA asap.
- c. **NZAGE Standards** – The Council Working Group tasked with reviewing the NZAGE proposal believe it is a sound document and have made some recommendations to the NZAGE regarding clarification needed around reporting and authorisation requirements. Geoff Kerr to liaise with Bill O'Leary and follow up with Simon Guild **Action item 14/1**.
- d. **Te Urewera** – Alec McIver provided an update on the activities of Te Urewera with the opening of a new centre, the release of the use of dog's policy etc.
- e. **NZCA** - The action item for Don Hammond to meet with the NZ Conservation Authority hasn't occurred yet. To be actioned asap. Garry Ottmann provided information about the composition of the NZ Conservation Authority. Ben Reddiex will provide an update to Councillors on the appointment process. Councillors expressed that the appointment of a GAC representative on the NZCA should be pursued to represent hunting sector interests.
- f. **GAC Policy on the Use of 1080 and other toxins** - is on the GAC website and has been circulated to Ministers and other GAC stakeholder organisations.
- g. **Mountain Safety Council (MSC)** - Carol Watson spoke about her interaction with MSC. Matt Gibson who was the Hunting Partnerships Advisor has resigned and has not been replaced yet.

Our contact point is Nathan Watson who is the Partnerships Manager. It was commented that there seems to be lots of MSC Hunting videos & information on social media which is great for promoting hunting in NZ. Roger Duxfield questioned whether our obligations under the GAC Act “to provide information and education to the hunting sector” and “to promote safety initiatives for the hunting sector, including firearms safety” means that we should be taking the lead in our relationship with the MSC. Don Hammond advised that this question has been raised previously and at present the GAC does not have the capacity to undertake the projects the MSC has developed. The MSC is an incorporated society (non-Statutory Body) and currently has the resources to do the work that the GAC does not. Don Hammond advised that there might come a time in the future where the GAC would be in a position to take leadership in this area but for now we just have a watching brief and applaud MSC for getting the information out there. Don has repeatedly pushed the message to Mike Daisley of the MSC that Firearms Licencing and Training has to be available, affordable, accessible and include some hands-on training.

Bill O’Leary queried what is happening with firearms licencing. He advised that NZDA are frustrated that the Police have indicated a decision will not be made until July when their contract with MSC finishes. Roger Duxfield said it is taking 3 to 4 months to get temporary licences approved for visiting hunters. Roger Duxfield would like the GAC to write to the Police and ask the Police why it is taking so long and if anything can be done to improve the situation as this would be of benefit to hunters. Bill O’Leary advised that there has been large volumes of NZ licence applications and relicensing applications and the District Arms Offices seem to be short staffed and not able to deal with the big surge of applications coming through. **Action item 14/2** GAC to write to the Police asking them what turn-around time is and if anything can be done to improve it as it is not good for our international hunting visitors.

- h. **Tahr Project** - Garry Ottmann advised that DOC has agreed to the research proposal for holding of tahr on registered Game Estates outside of the feral range.
- i. **Code of conduct for animal welfare** - Don Hammond and Garry Ottmann to prepare letters to Game Estates as per Action item 13/5 of the 16 December 2016 Meeting.
- j. **Expenditure breakdown** - Terry Pierson distributed a breakdown as per the previous Minutes.
- k. **Public comments on the implementation of the levy** - Simon Guild provided comments to a farming magazine about the levy (see previous Minutes item 10) which he says have been misinterpreted or misreported.
- l. **Chronic Wasting Disease** - Geoff Kerr sent out brief to hunting magazines on 24 November 2016 providing information about CWD. Roger Duxfield advised that the Guides Association will be looking to GAC for direction on how to publicise this internationally with operators, registration, guides education, informing clients on arrival etc. The non-affiliated guiding community needs to be advised also and NZDA etc. The GAC needs to look for ways to engage with non-affiliated parties and whether these people can be educated through whatever networks DOC or other affiliations have. Terry Pierson advised that the Safari Club or CIC could be good avenues for publicising CWD. Don Hammond & Geoff Kerr will write to the NZPHGA **Action item 14/3**. Don Hammond to provide the draft letter to Steve McFall also to distribute within the NZPHA. CWD does not affect pigs, so may not be of little interest to pig hunters, however, we are attempting to inform as many hunters as possible and there is a lot of cross-over between pig and deer hunters. Our goal is to raise awareness of CWD amongst all NZ hunters, many of whom hunt overseas and may inadvertently be vectors for introducing CWD to NZ.

## 5. General business

- a. Access issues around Mt Pisa Conservation Area:** Geoff Kerr has written to DOC, advising that the Game Animal Council has been monitoring events surrounding hunter access to the Mt Pisa Conservation Area in Central Otago. Mike Tubbs, DOC Operations Manager Central Otago, provided the Council with background information, which has improved our understanding of the situation. Geoff Kerr said that the Mt Pisa case had alerted the GAC to some broader issues for hunters around access easements and asked for an investigation of ways that the Department and the GAC could advance their resolution as required. Ben Reddiex will follow up a Departmental response to Geoff's email.

It is the GAC's view that there should be free, practical access for hunters with firearms to all Public Conservation Land unless there are specific reasons not to. Mr Tubbs' has previously explained that South Island access easements take two different forms. In one form easements take the form of "exclusive lists", which provide access to all users, transport modes and associated items (dogs, firearms, bows and knives being the most important to hunters), unless expressly excluded in the terms of the easement. In the other form, easements take the form of "inclusive lists", which identify users, transport modes and associated items that are expressly included.

This dichotomy has potential to confuse users, and could result in them inadvertently violating the law. The Council seeks to engender the best possible understanding by hunters of their access rights and obligations, and we would like to work with DOC to achieve that.

- b. OSPRI CNI Stakeholder Day:** On 27 January 2017 OSPRI advised that they were considering holding a pest control stakeholder day at Lochinvar Station in the Central North Island in the last week of April 2017 focusing on the new TBfree plan and pest control. Despite feedback from Council and others supporting the day, OSPRI have decided to cancel it which is adding to stakeholder frustrations.
- c. Website** - Steve McFall distributed a report the result of the NZ Archives Survey, the response we sent to them and a proposed confidentiality agreement for Council to consider going forward. Steve McFall advised that record keeping and confidentiality will both become an issue over time as Council work continues to grow, electronic and paper trails increase, current Councillors leave and new Councillors come on board. It was recommended that ex Councillors keep their records safe somehow as the information is 'discoverable' under the Official Information Act. Steve McFall will circulate an electronic version of both papers **Action item 14/4.**

## 6. Action items from previous meetings:

- a.** 1/14 Export levy well advanced. 2/13 Nothing further to add on Illegal Hunting review.
- b.** 5/10 WARO, DOC is running out of time to progress this for this year. The GAC has written to DOC to try and advance this.
- c.** 8/8 not in a position to progress this at present.
- d.** Past action item 9/14 dealing with CMSs and HOSI is too broad and generic. Remove it and add new **Action Item 14/5** for Don Hammond and Geoff Kerr to work with departmental planners to ensure we get consistency and wording in planning documents to ensure provisions within the GAC Act are accommodated.
- e.** 12/6 Carol Watson is continuing discussions with Kalkomey around their supply agreement and content which needs to be NZ focussed and agreed by Council. MSC have also made their videos available which could be included.
- f.** 13/1 deer repellent, bait types and research - Don Hammond to raise with Michelle Edge, he has already raised it with Phil Dawson.

- g. 13/5 Game Estates to review their policies in line with accepted Codes of Conduct for Animal Welfare.

## 7. Correspondence and Feedback

Don Hammond and Jenny Wotten highlighted important pieces of correspondence including our input to the "2017 Tbfree Pest Control Operations Consultation" on 24 February 2017.

## 8. Financial Matters/Budget

### Financial Report

#### Account Balances – 14 Dec 2016

Investment – On Call	\$ 748.11
Current Account	<u>\$21786.90</u>
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$22535.01</b>

#### Plus Income

Interest on Investment Account	\$ 2.27
GST Refunds Dec 2016 & Feb 2017	\$ 2311.15
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$ 2313.42</b>

**Total Income** **\$24848.43**

**Less Expenses** \$17676.20

#### Balances – 13 March 2017

Investment – On Call	\$ 682.90
Current Account	<u>\$ 6489.33</u>
	<b>\$ 7172.23</b>

<p><b>Motion 14/4:</b> Moved Terry Pierson/Roger Duxfield: That the financial report be accepted and that payments made be approved.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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- a. Terry Pierson advised that two other emails had been distributed detailing expenditure as requested, some expenses relate to levy implementation. It would be useful for Councillors to itemise levy expenditure as it is outside of the expenditure that has been allocated to us.
- b. Terry Pierson and Don Hammond moved that another signatory (Geoff Kerr) be added to the bank accounts.

<p><b>Motion 14/5:</b> Moved Terry Pierson/Roger Duxfield: That Geoff Kerr be approved as a signatory on the Game Animal Council's bank accounts.</p>	<p>CARRIED</p>
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- c. Don Hammond advised that he has requested that part of the last budget allocation for the Levy implementation, be transferred to the GAC's bank account to ensure the Council remains financially viable until July (Terry Pierson to generate an invoice for DOC). Councillors were advised to put in any outstanding claims for payment and to put claims in regularly rather than holding on to them for payment later.

## 9. Working Group updates:

- a. **Statutory Processes** – Geoff Kerr spoke about the Wellington CMS process which closes on 4 April and said the Lower North Island hunting community is well engaged in the process. His report is attached.
- b. **Ruahine Working Group** –The recreational hunter survey has been finalised for some months, but has been awaiting maps from DOC. The DOC website was closed for amendment until mid-January, so the survey could not go live until then, but still requires pre-testing. The Ruahine Working group has been working productively. Geoff is working on a GAC submission relating to DOC planning processes. Don Hammond is keen to see the GAC continuing its involvement with this group and contributing to any decisions that are made. Geoff Kerr advised that he has had to help interpret the legal descriptions of deer as defined under various Acts of Parliament and that this information has been valuable for the group. Geoff Kerr was pleased to report that the group is making some progress and new draft plans are expected to come out in the middle of the year. The Working Group is currently working on:
  - looking at where hunting areas are feasible within the Ruahine Forest Park
  - work streams underway to identify ecological targets
  - WARO operator activities & opinions
  - recreational hunters survey (good responses coming in at rate of one per day and starting to get a good picture)
  - return operators, historical problems recurring, all about managing legal (permitted) activities on public land essentially.
- c. **HOSI (Sika, Tahr, Wapiti etc)** - Awaiting DOC advice.
- d. **Sika Committee** – Garry Ottmann has attended a meeting this week. They have made good progress, developing some structure about game animal management and will come up with draft plan that has general agreement. As reported last meeting, there is a chance that the work on the Sika herd could progress ahead of DOC although Ben Reddix advised that the HOSI agreed work is underway.
- e. **Summary Report on GAC Training and Standards Working Group:** Bill O’Leary spoke to his paper, see attached.

## 10. Minister Dunne address to Council:

Don Hammond thanked the Minister for his attendance. The Minister spoke about his recent overseas trip and his flying visit over Te Anau and Fiordland during which he saw Wapiti and marvelled at the unique NZ scenery. He followed this up with a meeting with the Wapiti Foundation in Queenstown afterwards. The Minister gave a brief update on the following issues:

- Export levy consultation process feedback
- GAC Act Review, noting that the report will be finalised shortly
- AATH
- The need for a template for HOSI
- Appointment of new Councillors around late April/early May and the procedure for this.

Don Hammond acknowledged the work of DOC and expressed his huge appreciation to the ongoing and retiring members of Councillors and the Minister and thanked them all for being part of the establishment of the Council and its enduring legacy for New Zealand and NZ hunters.

The Minister recapped previous thoughts about the about appointment process and indicated a preference for a staggered cessation arrangement meaning that some Councillors would be reappointed for 3 years and others for a lesser period. The Minister indicated a preference for bringing in people with appropriate experience rather than a group of delegates each representing their own affiliated bodies and their interests. A discussion followed which included appointments to the NZ Conservation Authority and the Minister thinks that this may be worthy of further

exploration. **Action item 14/6** Council to write to Minister and suggest that he seeks a role in NZ Conservation Authority appointments which he will then follow up with Minister of Conservation.

Don Hammond raised the issue of delays in processing temporary licences for hunters arriving from overseas and the Minister asked that Council write to him **Action item 14/7**.

Garry Ottmann raised the recent press release about CMSs being brought together under MBIE as opposed to how it has been run until now by individual local government organisations around New Zealand. Geoff Kerr said it would probably make our job easier as it meant engaging with just one body and having a national policy.

Geoff Kerr started a discussion about the submission and analysis process for the export levy, the issues to be worked through. The Minister said that at the end of the levy process he needs to see the GAC on a firm and sustainable financial footing. He is expecting a Department Report on the Levy Submissions by the end of March and for the outcome to be consistent with the provisions of the GAC Act 2013. Don Hammond thanked the Minister and John Brinsley-Pirie for their attendance.

11. **Michelle Edge CEO OSPRI** addressed the Council, introducing Nick Hancox (Senior Policy Advisor), and Matthew Hickson (Senior Advisor). Data was presented on TB and TB management areas. The data shows them that in February 2017 there were 41 infected herds in New Zealand and their aim is to completely eradicate TB by 2055. The team discussed their National consultation document, analysis of submissions, key points, timeframe, technical case for operations, use of deer repellent, extent and impact of 2017 operations. They advised that timing constraints force them to forward plan their operations for TMAs (TB Management Areas) but their mission is to make all planning arrangements and decisions as transparent as possible, and to follow up all operations with surveillance.

The OSPRI team said that everyone who submitted will receive a formal acknowledgement and feedback on their submission in due course. Geoff Kerr would like OSPRI to provide a comprehensive list of submissions and feedback to all parties to help build up a bigger picture of the issues. Don Hammond asked at what point will they make the details of submissions public? Michelle Edge advised that they are going through a process to identify touch points with landowners, land users and affected parties. The plan is to go out to National Consultation for the following year, with targeted information discreet to each area. This will result in a sequence of engagements rather than just one engagement ie they will consult in October this year for operations for next year. Nick Hancox said that consultation with landholders would touch on further operations for subsequent years so they would have advance notice. The OSPRI team said that this was all a relatively new plan, having only been in place for the last 8 months, that notices will cover more than one year, and that they must by law, engage landholders each year for multi years.

They acknowledged that in the submissions there was a clear concern for them to justify a technical case for operations where there are only presumed rather than clearly documented infections. Geoff Kerr asked to explore these assumptions further and that OSPRI need to get a management plan together for the presumption and prevalence of TB in those areas and convey their theories to stakeholders. Geoff Kerr said the GAC is very interested in the 2017 operations, the issues identified both last year and through this most recent consultation process. We need to look at your information on either the “proof” or “presumption” of TB in these areas and how we can mitigate any concerns or issues raised concerning the proposed operations.

Approximately 12% of upcoming operations will involve the use of deer repellent. They will give us an update on bait types as part of their reply to us on our submission. Geoff Kerr spoke about the

field trial (behind the wire) vs the real thing, pre-feeds, attractiveness for deer and pigs. OSPRI want to work as clearly as they can to meet long term planning. 2017 is not ideal and will not get rubber stamped. What are our priorities, what are our HOSI, what are crucial areas of concern for GAC.

Don Hammond and Geoff Kerr advised there is increasing concern that there still has not been any opportunity to be consulted on the specific methodologies, boundaries, timing, details of the planned operations and proposed mitigations, especially in the central North Island following the difficulties faced last year. Don Hammond wants to know what is happening in the CNI and other areas.

In regard to the email calling for interest for an Open Day in the CNI, Don Hammond advised Michelle Edge that he had responded in the affirmative for the Open Day to occur but had subsequently received an email from OSPRI advising there had been no interest to engage and the Open Day would not go ahead. Michelle Edge acknowledged the extent of reach of the GAC and our way of taking the conversation farther.

Garry Ottmann asked for details on the deer repellent trials on captive Sika that are commencing shortly. He said the GAC is particularly interested in who is running them, the location and methodology and that it would be valuable for the GAC to make comment on them now so that we are all on the same page going forward.

**12. Martin Kessick DOC** addressed the Council providing an update of the WARO Review.

<b>Motion 14/6:</b> Moved Terry Pierson/Garry Ottmann: That the meeting go into committee.	CARRIED
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<b>Motion 14/7:</b> Moved Don Hammond/Garry Ottmann: That the meeting go out of committee.	CARRIED
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**13. Martin Kessick, BfOB:** Martin advised that some BfOB operations had been significantly delayed by weather, that they are now able to track results of the operations and will provide a summary of their results to the GAC. Martin said that New Zealand is in the midst of another Mast event at the moment and seed counting is underway. They are producing a 'heat map' from the data and the results will be shared with the GAC. They are keen to understand if the way they engaged previously was good for information and formed the basis for a good ongoing relationship. If Councillors are happy with that type of engagement then they will continue this approach. Bill O'Leary and Geoff Kerr spoke of their participation in the process and said it was great to have the open dialogue and explanation of decisions and would be happy to participate again. There was a subsequent discussion about the GAC's survey for mitigation, led by Geoff Kerr which provided stakeholders with an opportunity to participate. Going forward there is an action for DOC, OSPRI and GAC around what options there are for using deer repellent. Martin Kessick will recommence the weekly phone engagement process again with the same Councillors and Peter Morton.

**14. Martin Kessick, Predator Free NZ:** Martin provided a short update on the structure of Predator Free New Zealand. He noted that people and science tools are being brought together under the banner of Predator Free NZ and that the new structure is the conduit for OSPRI, Regional Councils, stakeholders and iwi to work together to identify issues (these for example could include the use of deer repellent). Martin is happy to come back to the next GAC Meeting and report on progress. Don Hammond thanked Martin for his engagement with Council on BfOB in 2016 and for his attendance at this meeting.

- 15. Export Trophy Levy Consultation phase update** - Don Hammond and Ben Reddiex provided an update on the progress of the levy. The consultation document for the Export Trophy Levy closed on 13th February 2017. There was a request for an extension from the NZDA (for branches), which was denied as it would make the process less robust. Late submissions were not accepted but 114 were received within the timeframe. Submissions are currently being analysed. The Council will inform Minister Dunne of its recommendations by mid-May. Several key issues were discussed, including opportunities for recreational hunters to contribute being a key element for future consideration. Don Hammond has contributed some articles in Hunting and Wildlife magazines and forums with statements about how recreational hunters will need to contribute in the future. Bill O’Leary said there is an acknowledgement by NZDA and the majority of NZDA members that there will be a levy and that recreational hunters will need to contribute towards funding for the activities of the GAC.

Ben Reddiex DOC talked about the next stages of the implementation of the levy, drafting regulations, operational set up, the collection mechanisms (who receives payments, receipts them, issues certificates and how). It was proposed and agreed that DOC in collaboration with the GAC levy working group would develop an operational plan.

- 16. HOSI** – Ben Reddiex noted that there is agreement with the Council on the steps in developing a HOSI template and guidance document. DOC is working at making some resource available to advance this work – the majority of recent focus has been on supporting the export levy work.
- 17. AATH** – Ben Reddiex provided a short update on this work.
- 18. Roger Duxfield wants feedback on C2C. (Crucial to Conservation)** This is an international initiative to help deal with the anti-hunting community and to educate non-hunters about the great work hunters do as conservationists helping the environment and endangered species. The steering group set up in the USA is now coming back with lots of really good material, the question is; how would the GAC like to view this material which includes videos etc? Roger also advised that applications are now open to find New Zealand’s ‘Extreme Huntress’. Roger to send to information to Jenny Wotten to send to Councillors for dissemination through Councillor’s hunting networks.
- 19. NZ Hunters' blood lead levels:** Geoff Kerr provided a quick overview of the work researcher Eric Buenz into uptake of lead from game meat. Geoff gave him some alternative research avenues and other information to guide his work.
- 20. Retiring Councillors:** Councillors Bill O’Leary, Terry Pierson and Mark Brough are not seeking reappointment. Bill O’Leary said it’s been a pleasure being on the Council and he’s just sorry that limited resources has meant that the GAC cannot progress the issues as fast as it would like. Being on the Establishment Committee brought him into contact with other National bodies, breaking new ground and giving them a reason to talk to one another on a scale not seen before, bringing with it some very positive interaction with DOC. Bill O’Leary hopes his legacy will be his contribution in emphasising the importance of training and hunter/gun safety and licencing. Terry Pierson has been very grateful to have had the opportunity to be on the Council and in the Establishment groups helping to identify needs and contributing in the evolution of ideas. Don Hammond thanked both Councillors and Mark Brough for their invaluable contribution and said their expertise would be missed.
- 21. GAC Meeting Planning for 2017** – Don Hammond proposed we meet on 29th & 30th May with new Councillors in Wellington, dates and locations to be confirmed.

Don Hammond thanked DOC for hosting us at Conservation House. The meeting closed at 4.11pm

# Statutory Processes

Geoff Kerr

20 March 2017

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## Wellington CMS.

- Submissions on the draft CMS close 4 April 2017.
- Geoff Kerr will draft a GAC submission arising from the Ruahine Working Group's discussions
  - To ensure that adequate provision is made for changes in management arising from the Group's work programme
  - To identify potential issues arising from non-recognition in the draft plan of concurrent wild animal/game animal status and potential implications arising from that
    - Geoff has had constructive discussions on this matter with Lynn Hansberry, the DOC planner who oversaw the draft CMS.

## Westland NP/Mt Cook NP management plans.

- No further action required until draft plans are released October/November 2017.

## Department of Conservation easements:

- Discussed at December 2016 GAC meeting.
- As agreed, I emailed Marie Long on 4 January. On 2 March I emailed again to ask when the GAC might expect a response. There has been no response from Marie Long whatsoever, not even acknowledgement of the GAC request.
- This needs to be advanced. What should the GAC do as the next step?

## OSPRI 2017 programme consultation.

- GAC primary submission was made on 23 February.
- A supplementary GAC submission was made on 27 February.
- Thanks to all councillors who contributed.

## Inter-agency CWD response:

- Information and a request to publicise the issue was sent to NZ hunting magazines on 10 March 2017.

To NZ Game Animal Council

From Bill O'Leary

Date 19 March 2017

### **Summary Report on Training and Standards**

1. NZDA HUNTS (Hunter National Training Scheme).  
This course was considered and endorsed by GAC (subject to advisement of any significant changes to the format or content).
2. NZPHGA Training Academy  
This was considered and endorsed by GAC (subject to advisement of any significant changes to the format or content).
3. NZAGE (NZ Association of Game Estates) Industry Standards  
Standards were reviewed and recommended for endorsement.
4. On-line hunter training (Alex Gale)  
The training package was supported but long negotiations with Alex Gale were not successful.

### **Con-current NZDA Activity**

Related to GAC interests and activities but conducted separately from GAC, NZDA has actively lobbied on issues of firearm licensing, hunter safety and unlawful hunting. Whenever possible the interest of the GAC in these issues has been emphasised.

Relationships between NZDA and other organisations (SCI, Guides, Game Estate members, Pig hunters) have improved significantly as a result of common interests identified and highlighted through GAC.

Bill O'Leary