

NEW ZEALAND GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

The Game Animal Council is a statutory body established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to represent the interests of the Game Animal sector.



ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2014 TO 30 JUNE 2015

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www.nzgac.org.nz

Game Animal Council – Annual Report



It is my pleasure to present this Annual Report for the Game Animal Council after the Council's first full year of activity.

In late 2013, the Game Animal Council Act was passed through Parliament and in April 2014 the Associate Minister of Conservation appointed the 11 Councillors. As noted in last year's brief Annual Report, the passing of the Act heralded a fundamental shift in attitude to game animals in NZ.

This report reflects on the work the Council has completed or has in progress to deliver on the aspirations of those who supported the enactment of the GAC Act.



FINANCIAL

The terms of the GAC Act require the Council to be self-funding apart from an annual contribution from Vote Conservation of \$50,000. The only funding stream allowed for in the Act is a levy on exported trophies. Clearly this places an urgency on the Council to get this levy implemented and also to commence work on other funding streams as the export trophy levy alone is neither sufficient to support the activities of the Council, nor is it appropriate for the largely commercial sector that exports trophies to fund all the Council's activity.

During the year under review, considerable work has been completed towards getting the export levy in place including consulting with affected parties, but it is still not at the stage of having the necessary regulations drafted. Primarily the Council has lacked sufficient resource to employ the necessary staff to drive these initiatives forward. Instead the Council has had to rely on the voluntary contributions of Council members to complete this work. As a result, progress has been slower than hoped for.

It is pleasing to note however that the NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association have encouraged their members to pay a voluntary levy to the Council until such time as the formal levy regulations are in place. This is clear evidence that the hunting sector is getting behind the work of the Council.

As with last year, with the limited resources available to the Council, there is little to report in terms of the financial activity of the Council for the year July 2014 to June 2015.

Income for the year was \$50,729 (excluding GST) while expenditure for the period totalled \$51,401 (excluding GST). At the end of the financial year, Council funds available were \$52,274.

ReederSmith Ltd in Rotorua continue to act as the Council's Accountant and the accounts will be subject to audit by the Office of the Auditor General.



While the Act provides for a levy on exported trophies, it does not provide for other revenue sources for the Council. It is the view of Council and of many stakeholders, especially but not solely, the commercial operators, that Council funding needs to be more broad based and in particular needs to ensure contribution from recreational hunters.

The Council is actively seeking additional sources of revenue and are considering a range of other possible levies and charges that would see a much wider group of stakeholders contribute financially to the work of the Council. It is worth noting that overseas this is a common situation where recreational users contribute financially to managing the resource and it is also the model used by Fish and Game here in NZ.

Clearly, contributing financially to managing game animals in NZ is something that will take some time to work through with affected parties, but it is the view of the Council that hunters and hunting in NZ has matured to the point where there is an understanding of the benefits to be gained through careful management of game animals, which is a very different situation to that which has existed for the past 80 or more years.

ACTIVITIES

The work of the Council can be split into several sections. A brief summary of each section is provided in the sections below.

Administration

The Council continues to share an office in Rotorua and employ a part time Administration Officer. As signalled in last year's report, the Council will consider a shift of operations to Wellington once sufficient financial resource is available to support the move.



Communications

Communication from the Council is in two main areas. The first is with the wider hunting fraternity while the second is with organisations and agencies that may have activity that connects with or impacts on hunting and hunters.

The Council has developed a website that can be visited at www.nzgac.org.nz. This continues to be developed and updated as required.

The Council has also printed copies of the 5 Year Strategic Plan and an overview of the roles and functions of the Council. These are being distributed as widely as possible to improve understanding of the functions of the Council and to encourage stakeholders to communicate back to the Council.



Members of the Council have been interviewed by the media on a number of occasions when issues relating to hunting and firearms have been raised. It is pleasing to see the Game Animal Council being increasingly recognised as the place to seek informed and balanced comment on these matters.

The Council recognises that many game animal hunters in NZ are not affiliated with any club or formal organisation. Communicating with these people is important to ensure enduring outcomes that add to the hunting experience and the management of game animal herds. For this reason the Council continues to seek opportunities to meet with these people and outline its work. Good examples of these opportunities are the Sika Show in Taupo and the Tahr Show in Christchurch. It was especially pleasing to have the Associate Minister of Conservation (the Hon Peter Dunne) attend and speak at the Sika Show and endorse the work of the Council and of hunters generally.



In addition to communicating with the wider hunting fraternity, the GAC also provides input to a wide range of agencies and organisations whose activities impact on hunting in some way.

Over the year the Council has provided a range of submissions on topics as diverse as National Park Management Plan Templates, proposed Police Cost Recovery Bill being considered and applications for consent to aerially apply 1080.

The Council has also supported the SPCA in providing expert witnesses in animal cruelty prosecutions where defendants had attempted to use legitimate hunting practice as a defence.

The Council strongly believe all hunters must act ethically towards animals and cruelty cannot be condoned. In particular, inappropriate attempts to use accepted hunting practice as a defence will be strongly opposed.

Strategic Focus

The Council at its first meeting in May 2014 developed the following Goal and Objectives:

Sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation.

From this Goal the following six objectives were developed:

- Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values
- Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and stakeholders
- Promote hunter safety
- Reduce conflict among stakeholders
- Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe and legitimate activity
- Promote standards for hunting and management of game animals

These are not presented in priority order, but instead reflect the wide range of focus the Council has adopted and also describe the challenge and opportunity in front of us.

During the year under review, these objectives were further refined into a Strategic Plan, laying out what the Council plans to achieve over a five year period. The Strategic Plan is appended to this report.

Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH)

The GAC Act required the Council to develop a Code of Practice for the Minister's consideration by mid December 2014. The Code was delivered to the Minister in the required time frame and is notable in that all parties impacted by the activity were willing to contribute to its development and to support its implementation.

Since that time the Code is in the process of being implemented. The primary focus of the Code is to reduce conflict between all users of the land where this activity takes place.

AATH has been a contentious issue for some time so it is extremely pleasing to have all affected parties collaborate and agree on what is required and to have that endorsed by the Minister.

Herds of Special Interest

Subpart 3 of the GAC Act makes provision for establishing Herds of Special Interest (HOSI). This aspect of the Council's work is of particular interest to a wide range of Council stakeholders, especially in the recreational sector.

The Council has developed a set of criteria to assist supporters of various game animal herds in determining whether any particular herd may meet the level required to become a Herd of Special Interest. Herds of Special Interest are the vehicle to manage game animals for both hunting benefits conservation.



At the current time the Council does not have the resource to complete the necessary work to develop the management plans and associated resources necessary to support a proposal for gazettal as a HOSI. Instead the Council has concentrated on establishing the environment whereby sound proposals can be developed and progressed with a minimum of difficulty.

In its Strategic Plan, the Council has identified the establishment of one or more HOSI to be a priority.

Currently work on both Wapiti and Sika are advancing well alongside the development of a planning framework with the Department so that the process can proceed as smoothly as possible.

The work of the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) has over many years developed an excellent example of how to manage a game animal while at the same time adding to conservation values and outcomes. Hunters involved with the FWF invest considerable time and resource in trapping predators and as a result have seen considerable increases in numbers of endangered species such as blue duck (whio).

More recently a group has been established to further the aim of having an HOSI for sika deer and the associated herd and habitat management.

The Council is also aware of another 4 herds being under consideration. The hunting sector has high expectations that over time the GAC will facilitate the establishment of these herds enabling the hunters themselves to take on the active management. This will require more resourcing than the Council currently has available.

Safety and Hunter Education

A core responsibility of the Council is to improve hunter education and safety. 2015 has been a terrible year for hunting related accidents. While some of these have involved firearms and caught media attention, there are many more incidents involving hunters that do not involve firearms.



The GAC is actively working with a range of authorities to develop hunter education tools and opportunities to improve hunter safety at all times. The issues are complex, the hunters diverse and the locations scattered throughout the country. Further, resources for this work are limited but the GAC remains committed to improving safety and education outcomes and opportunities for all hunters.

The Council has continued to work with various associations and professional bodies to ensure codes of conduct are developed and maintained and skill levels are maintained. In particular it is pleasing to note the ongoing work of the Association of Game Animal Estates and the NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association in ensuring their members comply with their industry standards.

Hunting in Te Urewera

Over the past year the Council has continued to work with Te Urewera Trust Board and Tuhoe building a relationship to further game animal management and hunting opportunities.

In late 2014, the Board decided to change the way access to the land for hunting was managed, causing concern in some quarters that this was the beginning of the end for non-Tuhoe hunters. In reality the Board felt there was a need to change the way access was managed and simply needed some breathing space to implement change.

Council worked with the Board and together a very successful solution was developed. Many hunters from outside Te Urewera have commented very positively about the changes and most importantly their fears about access proved to be unfounded.



Following this, Council has also worked with the Board to formulate a policy for access with hunting dogs. This continues to be a work in progress and it is hoped that a final policy will be released soon.

Te Urewera is also home to the only wild herd of Rusa Deer in NZ with some animals also living on adjacent Maori and Freehold land. While the GAC Act does not provide for a Herd of Special Interest on land other than public conservation land, the Council believe the Rusa herd provide an outstanding opportunity for hunters and Tuhoe to work towards a highly valued and well managed hunting resource.

Department of Conservation (DOC)

As noted previously, a strong relationship with DOC is central to the success of the GAC. Throughout the year the GAC and DOC have worked together seeking outcomes that reduce conflict between users, and improves hunting and conservation opportunities.

One issue that remains unresolved is changes to the North Island Wild Animal Recovery Operator permits. Council continues to work with DOC and with interested parties to seek an acceptable outcome.

Building the relationship with DOC continues to be a priority for the Council and a strong level of communication and trust is developing. This does not mean that the two entities have to agree on all things, but does mean there is trust and an ability to communicate which bodes well for a long term relationship.

Looking Ahead

The establishment of the Game Animal Council is the culmination of many years of work to get recognition of the value of hunting and of game animals in NZ. Reports put the economic value of hunting at several hundred million dollars each year, quite aside from the recreational, health and conservation benefits. Expectations are high for the Council to assume much of the formal advocacy and planning for the sector at large, enabling the hunters to get on with the task of managing people and animals.

For these reasons alone, the Council has a very large but exciting task ahead. It is pleasing to reflect on the progress made over the past year, despite very limited resources.

Now the Council has got its feet on the ground, the focus is moving to establishing the necessary resources to go forward with, to build the relationships that are essential to the Council's future and to create value for all the hunting and wider community.

The Council has a vital role to play, but in itself is not the focus. As a result there is a determination to ensure that all actions are aimed at achieving the mission of *"Sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation"*.

The coming year will be a watershed year for the Council in bedding down a sustainable financial resource and in progressing the work outlined in the 5 Year Plan.

Concluding Comments

After the excitement of finally seeing the Game Animal Council come to life, the hard work is now underway. Much of it is out of the public eye, but is essential nonetheless.

This work could not have progressed without the enthusiasm of many people but in particular the members of the Council who have volunteered many hours of their own time on Council work, staff of the Department of Conservation and our Minister whose ongoing support is hugely appreciated.

We encourage all with an interest in hunting to get behind the work of the Council so that this once in a lifetime opportunity to improve hunting and game animal management in NZ is not lost forever.



Don Hammond
Chairman
Game Animal Council
November 2015



Game Animal Council
NEW ZEALAND

5 Year Strategic Plan

GAC mission statement:

**“Sustainable management of game animals
and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation.”**



The Game Animal Council is a statutory body established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to represent the interests of the Game Animal sector.



The establishment of the New Zealand Game Animal Council reveals the determination of government (past and current), and a succession of Ministers of Conservation, to address the conflicts that have plagued the previous administration of game animals, specifically, deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs, by involving all with interests in these animals. It is an unprecedented opportunity for the Council to secure the future of game animals and hunting by embodying modern principles and attitudes whilst remaining mindful of New Zealand's unique situation with respect to game animals and conservation. The Game Animal Council's responsibilities include providing advice to the Minister of Conservation on game animals, providing information and education, promoting safety and developing Codes of Practice and certification for the hunting sector. Establishing and managing herds of special interest, improving hunting opportunities, reducing conflict and hunter safety are key to its success.

The Game Animal Council has formulated this 5 year strategic plan for 2015-2019. Arising from this plan, each year the Council will compile an annual work plan and budget that will establish the priorities and actions for the forthcoming year and will assess the success of the previous year's work plan. The annual work plan will be approved by the Council at its June meeting and published to stakeholders.

Theme One:

Enhance the Quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values

- 1.1 Implement a National Integrated Game Animal Management Strategy that includes the full spectrum of game animal populations and addresses the needs of recreation, commerce and conservation.
- 1.2 Establish and Manage Herds of Special Interest
 - 1.2.1 Develop Criteria in order to assess the relative merits of Game Animal herds for designation as Herds of Special Interest.
 - 1.2.2 Develop directly and assist other organisations to develop proposals for herds of special interest and promote these to the Minister of Conservation.
 - 1.2.3 Establish herds of special interest as resources permit by 2019. Herds of Special Interest may be managed by the GAC, by other organisations or by joint management.
- 1.3 Establish partnerships with other organisations and individuals for managing game animals that are not herds of special interest.
 - 1.3.1 Assist other organisations and individuals to manage game animals for recreation, commerce and conservation.
 - 1.3.2 Provide advice to landowners for managing game animals on their land.
- 1.4 Improve the effectiveness of hunters in managing game animals by increasing hunter success in harvesting the appropriate animals through the provision of information on where game animals exist and how best to find and hunt them.

1.4.1 Work with other organisations (such as Walking Access NZ, DoC, Federated Farmers, NZ Forest Owners Association) to identify and facilitate hunter and management access to herds of game animals.

1.4.2 Provide information on densities and seasonal movements of game animals.

1.4.3 Provide information on how to successfully hunt game animals (see also Theme Three and integrate where practical).

- 1.5 Develop a Research Strategy. All research is undertaken in accordance with accepted scientific standards and principles. Management decisions are made taking into account available research. Game Animal Research is encouraged at all levels of education. Provide one scholarship annually for research that benefits game animals or hunting.

Quality game management is a concept well understood overseas. The word quality includes the quality of an animal as meat for private consumption, for its trophy value, or as a commercial commodity. Inextricably linked to the quality of the animal is the quality of the habitat for both game animals and indigenous species. Quality habitat must also be sustainable. To address all aspects of game management the Game Animal Council will compile a National Integrated Game Animal Management Strategy. For such a strategy to succeed, we need to work collaboratively with all stakeholders and make sound management decisions based on good information. It is important to maintain or increase the number of hunters, increase their success rates and maintain a viable commercial game animal harvest. The GAC aims to be an enabling organisation that provides the legislative backing and expertise that facilitates others undertaking game management initiatives for both those animals that are a Herd of Special Interest or those that are not. This is reflected in the modest size of the organisation. This is the most cost effective and efficient way of undertaking such management.

Theme Two:

Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and stakeholders through effective communication.

- 2.1 Implement a communications strategy that;
 - Ensures that stakeholders have easy access to timely information about the work of the GAC and;
 - Ensures stakeholders have the opportunity to engage with the GAC on issues that affect them and;
 - Ensures the GAC is the “go to” organisation for all aspects of game animals and hunting and;
 - Builds the strength of the GAC brand.
(See also: Theme Four. Reducing conflicts will develop positive relationships)
- 2.2 Recognise the special relationship tangata whenua have with the land and develop appropriate relationships with iwi around NZ where these intersect with hunting interests.

The Game Animal Council can only deliver better outcomes for both hunters and conservation by having the support of stakeholders. Stakeholders must know, understand and support the work of the GAC. The GAC wants stakeholders to view the GAC as an organisation that considers their views, identifies objectives relevant for them, and implements strategies and plans to advance their interests. Even though Councillors are appointed this does not mean that the Council cannot operate in a democratic way and give all stakeholders the opportunity to participate in decision making on matters that affect them.

Theme Three:

Promote hunter safety

- 3.1 Implement accredited training programs for recreational hunters that address firearms, bow and outdoor safety requirements (see also item 5.1 and integrate where appropriate).
- 3.2 Ensure that industry approved training programs are available for hunting guides that ensure clients are provided with a safe hunting experience.
- 3.3 Ensure that industry approved training programs are available for commercial hunters that address firearms, animal welfare and health and safety requirements.

The safety of those in the outdoors is paramount. This does not only apply to hunters but to the public in general. Whilst firearms safety has a high profile, the statistics show that more hunters die in the outdoors from non-firearms related incidents, so there must be a significant emphasis on outdoor safety in general, in addition to firearm safety. There needs to be a clear training pathway available to all hunters from novice to experienced that upsills or refreshes their knowledge of firearms, bows and the outdoors in general. To ensure New Zealand is a country that provides a safe, quality hunting experience we also need to ensure hunting guides are adequately trained and are aware of their industry requirements. Many countries now require paddock to plate certification for the food they eat. For the future of our game export industry and to safeguard domestic food safety we need to ensure that our animals are harvested using acceptable methods and to agreed standards.

Theme Four:

Reduce conflict among stakeholders.

- 4.1 Provide a forum and dispute resolution procedure.
The makeup of the Council facilitates dispute resolution because members have broad knowledge of most of the game animal sector. Performance under Goal Two will also help in reducing disputes.
- 4.2 Develop appropriate Codes of Practice to assist in resolving conflict (such as the AATH code required in the GAC Act).

Establishing many of the initiatives set out in this plan will provide a mechanism for resolving disputes. However the Council envisages that conflict will reduce considerably as stakeholders have greater input into issues that affect their interests.

Theme Five:

Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe and legitimate activity.

- 5.1 Educate stakeholders and the public that hunting is a safe legitimate pastime.
- 5.2 Educate stakeholders and the public that game animals are valued introduced species and are an important contributor to the health, wellbeing, prosperity and conservation of New Zealand.
- 5.3 Educate stakeholders and the public on the role of hunting and hunters in both the management of game animals and the conservation of indigenous species.
(See also Goal 6. Adherence to codes of conduct will improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe legitimate activity)

Hunting will remain as long as it is relevant to New Zealand society. New Zealand's outdoor history is closely linked to the presence and hunting of game animals. However, there are diverse views: many New Zealanders are unwilling to accept that their support for the conservation of native species and ecosystems must necessarily come at the cost of denying any place in New Zealand's wild lands for introduced species such as deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs, others see no place for game species. Traditionally, there has been a close connection between urban and rural New Zealand, but increased urbanisation is reducing this connection. It is vital that hunters understand their role in both the management of game animals and the conservation of indigenous species. The public also understands and supports hunting, the role it plays and the place of game animals.

Theme Six:

Promote standards for hunting and management of game animals.

- 6.1 Establish codes of conduct for recreational hunting.
- 6.2 Establish industry approved standards for guided hunting, commercial hunting and game estates.
- 6.3 In conjunction with the guided hunting and game estate industry, establish certification programs for those sectors and encourage all those in the industries to become certified.
- 6.4 Ensure all hunters understand the need to comply with all relevant standards and regulations. Ensure legislation is appropriate to reinforce the necessity for compliance.

Actions speak louder than words and the way hunters conduct themselves and how we treat game animals both on public and private land is coming under more and more scrutiny. With social media and modern technology hunters' actions can progress from the back-country to the television, computer or mobile phone in literally a split second. As the statutory body for hunting, it is up to the Game Animal Council to set out what is and is not acceptable conduct in hunting. The public and overseas tourists will judge us on what these standards are and how we adhere to them. (See also Theme 5)

Theme Seven: **Develop appropriate management and administration structures.**

- 7.1 Develop a Sound Structure for the Game Animal Council
 - 7.1.1 Establish a Head Office in Wellington with a fulltime CEO plus administration, policy and communications resources. Establish North Island and South Island Regional Offices with game management staff.
 - 7.1.2 Complete all statutory requirements on time.
 - 7.1.3 Implement a funding strategy and mechanisms to ensure that the GAC is self-funding with total income from all sources of at least of \$1million pa. Commercial partnerships and the non-hunting sector contribute 10% of GAC funding. The GAC seeks external funding contributions for projects that have public good outcomes.

To function effectively the Game Animal Council needs to have a strong foundation. Starting with a completely clean slate is both a challenge and an advantage for the GAC. Sound management systems, staffing resources and funding streams will enable the Council to realise the benefits to game animals, hunting, commerce and conservation that achieving the provisions of this plan will provide.

Theme Eight: **Promote the interests of the Game Animal Sector**

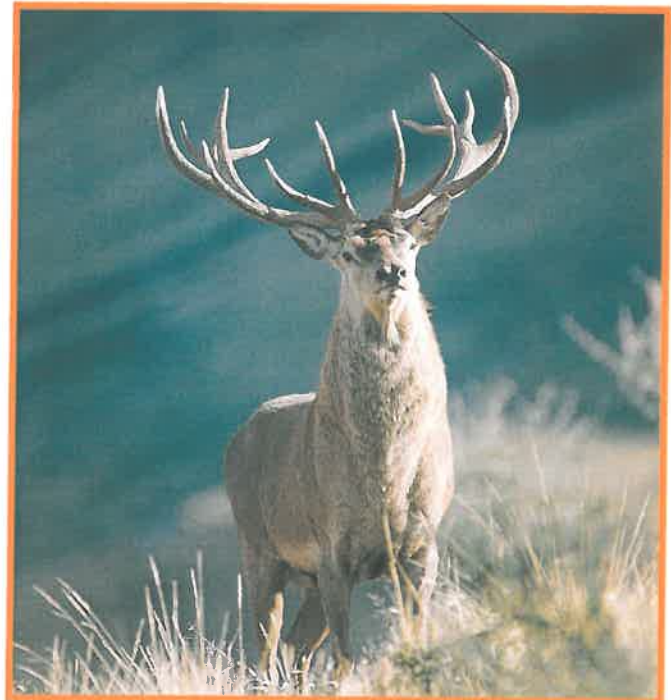
- 8.1 Raise awareness of the views of the Game Animal Sector in all forums.
- 8.2 Ensure the interests of the GAC, game animals and hunting are adequately addressed in all legislation, policy and planning.
- 8.3 Ensure that the Game Animal Council Act 2013 addresses the needs of the GAC by identifying deficiencies and recommending to the Minister of Conservation appropriate amendments.

There is a plethora of statutory and non-statutory processes, plans, policies and provisions that can affect the interests of the game animal sector. It is vital that the Game Animal Council's interests are communicated to these processes and the GAC's needs are reflected in the outcomes. If not the achievement of the provisions of this plan will be significantly limited

Summary

In 2019 the Game Animal Council is a national game animal management organisation undertaking management of people and animals to the benefit of all stakeholders. It works cooperatively both within the hunting sector and, as importantly, with those outside hunting circles. In being effective, the GAC is openly communicative and democratic, with a sound structure and governance, backed by appropriate legislation and as far as practical is self-funded. It is accountable to its stakeholders and produces better outcomes for them; is respected for its balanced advocacy based on good science and research, and gives authoritative advice.

Recreational hunters are adequately trained in safe hunting practices, understand the role of hunting, and their responsibilities, together with the conservation of indigenous species. They have good information on where to hunt and how to hunt successfully. Recreational hunters are complemented by a sustainable commercial harvest of game animals. Hunting Guides and Game Estates provide clients with safe, quality hunting experiences.



Game Animal Council
NEW ZEALAND

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New Zealand Game Animal Council

Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2015

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New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Responsibility

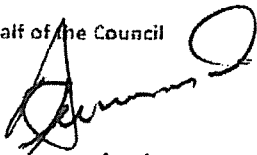
For the period ended
30 June 2015

The Council are responsible for the preparation of the Financial Statements and Statement of Service Performance and for the judgements contained within them, and

The Council are responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control that is designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting, and

In the opinion of the Council, the financial statements and service performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Council for the period ending 30 June 2015

Signed on behalf of the Council



Name

Reil Robert Hemmard.



Name

LAWRENCE ARTHUR PEARSON

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Entity Information

"Who are we?", "Why do we exist?"

For the period ended
30 June 2015

Legal Name of Entity:*	The Game Animal Council
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Other Name of Entity (if any):	New Zealand Game Animal Council
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Type of Entity and Legal Basis (if any):*	Statutory Body constituted under the Game Animal Council Act 2013
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Registration Number:	N/A
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Entity's Purpose or Mission: *

The Game Animal Council is a statutory body established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to represent the interests of the Game Animal Sector.

The Game Animal Council's Mission Statement and Strategic Focus has identified it's goal to be the "sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation".

The Game Animal Council has identified six objectives to achieve this goal:

- 1 Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values
- 2 Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and stakeholders
- 3 Promote Hunter Safety
- 4 Reduce conflict among stakeholders
- 5 Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe and legitimate activity
- 6 Promote standards for hunting and management of game animals

On the 17 April 2014 the Minister of Conservation appointed the members to the Council. These members collectively have the knowledge and experience relating to game animals, recreational and commercial hunting, conservation and other interests relating to the Game Animal Sector.

The key functions of the Council are to advise the Minister of Conservation on hunting issues, provide education and information to the sector, promote safety initiatives and to undertake the management for designated herds of special interest.

The main source of income at present is from Grants received from the Department of Conservation. The Council is currently working with the Department of Conservation on the implementation of a Export Trophy Levy. While it is envisaged that the Council will be self funding in the future in part from Export Trophy Levies, the Council have identified that other revenue sources may be necessary to make the Council sustainable into the future. Please refer to the attached Annual Report for further information on the activities of the Council in 2014/15.

Contact details

Physical Address:	1209 Hinemaru Street, Rotorua 3010
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Postal Address:	P O Box 1715, Rotorua 3040
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Phone/Fax:	Phone 07 349 8366 Fax 07 349 0609
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Email/Website:	www.NZGAC.org.nz
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New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Service Performance

"What did we do?", When did we do it?"

For the period ended
30 June 2015

Description of the Entity's Outcomes*:

Appintment of Council Members, Establishment of Council principles and procedures, Development of collateral, Branding, Website and Communications. Liaison with stakeholders and establishment of relationships. Development of Strategic Plan, Mission Statement and core objectives for the Council. Establishment of an Office, Financial and administration systems. Completion of required Code of Parctice for Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting.

Description of the Entity's Outputs, Measures of Quantity and Quality (to the extent practicable), and Measures of the Timeliness of Delivery (if this is important):*	Actual*	Budget	
	This Year	This Year	
Formation of Working Groups - Statutory Processes, AATH Working Group, Herds of Special Interest, Finance & Administration, Training and Education.	Achieved		
Development of the Website	Achieved		
Development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan	Achieved		
Hold monthly Council meetings	11 Meetings	12 meetings	
Develop Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting Code of Practice for Minister's consideration	Achieved December 2014		
Attend Trade Shows and represent Council (Sika Show and Tahr Show).	Achieved		
Respond and represent Hunters in Policy and Operational issues affecting Hunting	Achieved		

Additional Output Measures:

Increased awareness among stakeholders about what the Council is able to do and what it is not able to do for hunters. Become the first point of contact for entities seeing input into hunting related matters.

Additional Information:

New Zealand Game Animal Council
Statement of Financial Performance
 "How was it funded?" and "What did it cost?"
 For the period ended
 30 June 2015

	Note	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$
Revenue			
Funding from central government*		150,000	
Revenue for providing goods or services*		50	
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue*			
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue*		1,545	
Other revenue			
Total Revenue*		151,595	-
Expenses			
Employee Related Costs			
Operational Costs		47,244	
Council Related Costs		46,935	
Administration Costs		15,187	
Depreciation		672	
Total Expenses*		110,038	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year*		41,557	-



New Zealand Game Animal Council
Statement of Financial Position
 "What the entity owns?" and "What the entity owes?"
 As at
 30 June 2015

	Note	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash*		51,056	
Debtors and prepayments*		-	
Inventory*			
Other current assets		1,690	
Total Current Assets		52,746	-
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment*		1,344	
Investments*			
Other non-current assets			
Total Non-Current Assets		1,344	-
Total Assets*		54,090	-
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Bank overdraft*			
Creditors and accrued expenses*		12,533	
Employee costs payable*			
Unused donations, grants and government funding with conditions*			
Other current liabilities			
Total Current Liabilities		12,533	-
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loans*			
Total Non-Current liabilities		-	-
Total Liabilities*		12,533	-
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)*		41,557	-
Accumulated Funds			
Capital contributed by owners*		-	
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)*		1,557	
Establishment Funding Reserves*		40,000	
Total Accumulated Funds*		41,557	-

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Cash Flows

"How the entity has received and used cash"

For the period ended
30 June 2015

	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities*		
Cash was received from:		
Funding from central or local government*	150,000	
Receipts from non-governmental sources for providing goods or services*	50	
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts*	-	
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts*	1,545	
Net GST	(1,690)	
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers and employees*	96,833	
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities*	53,072	-
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities*		
Cash was received from:		
Receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment*	-	
Receipts from the sale of investments*	-	
Proceeds from loans borrowed from other parties*	-	
Capital contributed from owners*	-	
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment*	2,016	
Payments to purchase investments*	-	
Repayments of loans borrowed from other parties*	-	
Capital repaid to owners*	-	
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities*	(2,016)	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash*	51,056	-
Opening Cash*	-	-
Closing Cash*	51,056	-
This is represented by:		
Bank Accounts and Cash*	51,056	-

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Accounting Policies

"How did we do our accounting?"

For the period ended

30 June 2015

Reporting Entity

The New Zealand Game Animal Council is a statutory body established on 28 November 2013 under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and is required to comply with the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Public Finance Act 1989.

Basis of Preparation*

New Zealand Game Animal Council has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

First set of Financial Statements

As the New Zealand Game Animal Council was established on 28 November 2013, these are the first set of financial statements for the Council and therefore there are no comparatives. The period that these financial statements cover is from 28 November 2013 to 30 June 2015.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)*

All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank Accounts and Cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Property Plant and Equipment

Property Plant and Equipment are valued at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated at rates that reflect the estimated useful life of the asset.

Account Receivable

Accounts Receivable are stated at their estimated net realisable value.

Changes in Accounting Policies*

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year

Statutory Reporting Deadline

Section 156 of the Crown Entities Act requires the Council to submit its financial statements for audit within 3 months of its balance date. As this was the first year of operation this deadline was not achieved. The requirement to provide an audit report within 4 months of the end of the financial year was also not achieved.



New Zealand Game Animal Council
Notes to the Performance Report
For the period ended
30 June 2015

Note 1 : Analysis of Revenue

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Last Period \$
Funding from central government	Establishment Funding June 2014	100,000	-
	Annual Funding	50,000	-
	Total	150,000	-

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Revenue from non-governmental sources for providing goods or services	Licencing fees	50	-
	Total	50	-

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue			
	Total	-	-

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Last Period \$
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	Interest	1,545	-
	Total	1,545	-

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Other revenue			
	Total	-	-



New Zealand Game Animal Council
Notes to the Performance Report
For the period ended
30 June 2015

Note 3 : Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Asset Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Last Period \$
Bank accounts and cash	Business Edge Account	9,009	
	Business Credit Card	502	
	Business On line Call Fund	41,545	
	Total	51,056	-

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Debtors and prepayments		-	
	Total	-	-

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Other current assets	GST Receivable	1,690	
	Total	1,690	-

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Investments			
	Total	-	-

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Last Year \$
Other non-current assets			
	Total	-	-



New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2015

Note 3 : Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Creditors and accrued expenses	Trade and other payables	7,243	
	Accrued expenses	5,290	
	Total	12,533	-

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Employee costs payable			
	Total	-	-

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Unused donations and grants with conditions			
	Total	-	-

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Other current liabilities			
	Total	-	-

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Loans			
	Total	-	-

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$
Other non-current liabilities			
	Total	-	-



New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2015

Note 4 : Property, Plant and Equipment

This Year					
Asset Class*	Opening Carrying Amount*	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment*	Closing Carrying Amount*
Office equipment*	-	2,016		672	1,344
Total	-	2,016	-	672	1,344

Last Year					
Asset Class*	Opening Carrying Amount*	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment*	Closing Carrying Amount*
Office equipment*					-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Significant Donated Assets Recorded - Source and Date of Valuation*

Significant Donated Assets - Not Recorded*



New Zealand Game Animal Council
Notes to the Performance Report
For the period ended
30 June 2015

Note 6 : Commitments and contingencies

Commitment*	Explanation and Timing*	At balance date
		This Year*
		\$
Commitments to lease or rent assets *	Up to 1 year	5,573
	1 to 2 years	5,573
	2 to 5 years	697
Commitment to purchase property, plant and equipment*	Nil	-
Commitments to provide loans or grants*	Nil	-

Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at balance date (Last Year - nil)



New Zealand Game Animal Council
Notes to the Performance Report
For the period ended
30 June 2015

Notes 7-12

Note 7: Other

Revenue with Conditions which have not been Recorded as a Liability

Source of Revenue	Original Amt*	Not Fulfilled Amt*	Purpose and Nature of the Condition(s)*
Nil	-	-	

Goods or Services Provided to the Entity in Kind

Description*	Amount*
Nil	-

Assets Used as Security for Liabilities

Nature and Amount of Borrowing*	Nature and Amount of Asset Used as Security*
Nil	Nil

Note 8: Assets Held on Behalf of Others

Description of the Assets Held*	Name of Entity on Whose Behalf Assets are Held*
Nil	Nil

Note 9: Related Party Transactions

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Related Party Disclosures

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year. (Last Year - Nil)

Note 10: Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year Nil)



New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2015

Notes 7-12

Note 10: Events After the Balance Date

Nature of Event*	Estimate of Financial Effect*	Effect, if any on assumption of continuity*

OR (Delete one not applicable to the entity)

Events after the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year Nil)

Note 11: Ability to Continue Operating*

Note 12: Correction of Errors*

Additional Information



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

**TO THE READERS OF
NEW ZEALAND GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL'S
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of New Zealand Game Animal Council (the Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Vivien Cotton, using the staff and resources of Cotton Kelly, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Council on his behalf.

Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance

We have audited the performance report that includes:

- the financial statements of the Council on pages 5 to 17, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of financial performance and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Council on pages 4.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Council:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 30 June 2015; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and have been prepared in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting- Accrual (Public Sector) framework.
- the statement of performance of the Council:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Council's performance for the year ended 30 June 2015, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved compared with the forecast included in the annual plan for the financial year;
 - its actual revenue and output expenses compared with the forecasts included in the annual plan for the financial year; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 20 February 2017. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities, and we explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and carry out our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance are free from material misstatement.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that, in our judgement, are likely to influence readers' overall understanding of the financial statements and the statement of performance. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

An audit involves carrying out procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and in the statement of performance. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including our assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the preparation of the Council's financial statements and statement of performance in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

An audit also involves evaluating:

- the appropriateness of accounting policies used and whether they have been consistently applied;
- the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- the adequacy of all disclosures in the financial statements and in the statement of performance; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and the statement of performance. Also, we did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

We believe we have obtained sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance for the Council that:

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting- Accrual (Public Sector) framework;
- present fairly the Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows; and
- present fairly the Council's performance and outcomes.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

The Council is also responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Council is also responsible for the publication of the financial statements and statement of performance, whether in printed or electronic form.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and statement of performance and reporting that opinion to you based on our audit. Our responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001.

Independence

When carrying out the audit, we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the External Reporting Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.



Vivien Cotton
Cotton Kelly
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand