

New Zealand Game Animal Council Annual Report

2015-16



Don Hammond, Chair

GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL | PO BOX 1715 ROTORUA 3040

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Foreword - Hon Peter Dunne, Associate Minister of Conservation

The NZ Game Animal Council legislation was passed in 2013 and the Council formally came into being in 2014 with the appointment of 11 Councillors from all over NZ and providing a collective voice for hunters.

Three years later and we have just finished the appointments process for the first change to the Council since its inception.

I want to thank the Councillors who have concluded their service to the Council, Bill O'Leary, Steve McFall, Terry Pierson and Mark Brough, your service was invaluable and the work that you did for the Council and wider sector shall always be appreciated.

Over the past three years, the game Animal Council has evolved from being an idea set in legislation to being a true leader and advocate in the outdoor sector. The work done to date in forming relationships with the sector and becoming an advocate for the outdoors has shown the ability for the Council to create real change on the ground. Working through the regulatory hurdles around the trophy levy and HOSI have led us to the brink of even more change that will have a widespread benefit to New Zealand hunters and outdoors.

The new Council, which sees six returning councillors and three new appointments strikes the balance between recognising the sterling service of the previous council and bringing on new voices to expand and build upon the Council's work to date.

The next three years will be important for the outdoor sector and the Game Animal Council is uniquely placed to lead the change in this sector in such a way as to deliver a better future to all people who engage in the outdoors.

This term will see the Council face some new and exciting challenges. This Council will see the implementation of the Trophy Export Levy which will secure ongoing funding for the Council to continue to operate into the long term. Moreover, the Council will see its role expanded as the Herds of Special Interest regulations are put in place and management plans developed. These are exciting challenges for us to face, we have the ability to succeed well in facing them and, in doing so, provide a better New Zealand for those wanting to engage in our great outdoors.

I wish you the best of luck over the next year in setting your work plan in place and commend the work the Council has done to date in establishing the Council into the body that it is today.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dunne', followed by a horizontal line.

Hon Peter Dunne

Associate Minister of Conservation

Chairman's Report

It gives me pleasure to present the 2015-16 New Zealand Game Animal Council Annual Report and to recap on another busy year.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Councillors, DOC staff and Minister Dunne for their dedication and energy in growing and protecting hunting opportunities in NZ. Their efforts are making an important contribution to the prosperity of hunting and I am very proud of our team.

I would also like to thank the Councillors for their faith and confidence in the organisation to deliver great things in the years ahead and for their hard work and ongoing support. It is a delight to work with such a talented team and an exciting time to look forward and embrace new opportunities.



Purpose of the Game Animal Council

The Game Animal Council (GAC) was established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 on 28 November 2013 as a statutory agency to represent the interests of the hunting sector and improve the management of hunting resources while contributing to positive conservation outcomes.

The GAC has responsibilities for, inter alia, representing commercial and recreational game animal hunters, and advising on and managing aspects of game animal hunting. Game animals are feral pigs, chamois, tahr, and all species of deer.

Our key functions include: advising and making recommendations to the Minister of Conservation on hunting issues, providing information and education to the sector, promoting safety initiatives, conducting game animal research and undertaking management functions for designated herds of special interest.

Mission Statement

The GAC Strategic Plan and Mission Statement were ratified in May 2015. The four-page Strategic Plan was appended to the GAC's 2015 Annual Report. The Mission Statement is:

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

The objectives are to:

- 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.

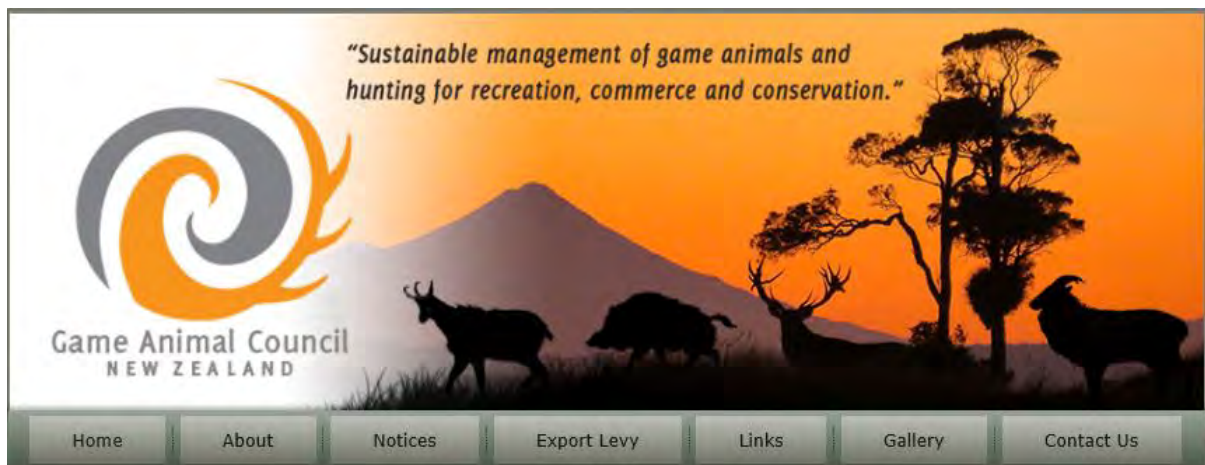
Our people and administration

Amongst the Councillors currently appointed to the Council, we are privileged to have people with experience and expertise in recreational and commercial game animal hunting, deer farming, hunting-related tourism, farming generally, forestry, kaitiakitanga, nature conservation, and scientific disciplines.

Current Councillors were appointed on 1 May 2014 for a three-year term. Current Councillors are:

Don Hammond (Chair) – Rotorua	Roger Duxfield - Waikato
Geoff Kerr (Deputy Chair) – Christchurch	Mark Brough - Waikato
Garry Ottmann – Christchurch	Steve McFall - Waikato
Terry Pierson – Christchurch	Alec McIver - Rotorua
Bill O’Leary – Nelson	Carol Watson – Auckland
Roy Sloan – retired 10.4.16, Invercargill	

Our office is based at 1209 Hinemaru Street Rotorua, or PO Box 1715 Rotorua 3040, phone 07 3498366. Our website address is www.nzgac.org.nz. The GAC’s Executive Officer is Jenny Wotten.



Meetings

The Council met 4 times in the 12 months to 30 June 2016 at various locations around NZ to make the meetings accessible to as many participants in the hunting sector as possible.

Minutes of each meeting are on our website www.nzgac.org.nz/minutes.

Various stakeholder organisations have already made invited presentations to the GAC to further the Council’s knowledge of issues and to work with stakeholder groups for the betterment of all parties.

Reaching out to hunters

The GAC had a stand at the Sika Show in Taupo in September 2015 which provided an ideal opportunity for GAC Councillors to engage with hunters at the grass roots level to discuss the Council and its activities.



It is clear from our inward correspondence and website feedback that the GAC is increasingly a first point of call for hunters and hunting organisations for queries and concerns about topical issues.

We are also pleased to be increasingly consulted by statutory bodies regarding policy issues, future direction and planning, with one or two notable exceptions that we are working on. The Minister has observed that prior to establishment of the GAC, there was no organisation through which issues such as AATH and WARO could be addressed.

Battle for Our Birds

The impacts of beech masts on native fauna through changes in introduced predator populations pose a significant management challenge for DOC. The Department's predator control operations, particularly those using aerially applied toxins, can adversely affect game animals and hunters. The GAC, in collaboration with the NZ Deerstalkers Association, and using early information on pest irruptions provided by the Department, investigated the most adversely affected game herds. This process identified highest priority areas for mitigation, which subsequently was incorporated into those operations. We are grateful for the timeliness and high quality of the information provided by the Department, which enabled a robust consultative process informed by quality science.

Firearms Reviews, Education, Training and Safety

We went into this year having just endorsed the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association's Training Program and keen to make further progress in the educational and training sector and keep up the momentum.

We launched the online NZ Bowhunting Safety Education Course on 22 January 2016, run through the National Bowhunter Education Foundation (NBEF).



The GAC will be ideally placed to take a leading role in the Minister's proposed Illegal Hunting Review once sufficient resources are available.

Policy development

During the 2015/16 year:

The GAC promulgated its "Policy on the use of toxins and 1080", available on the GAC website and attached here as Appendix 1.

- We have worked with DOC, OSPRI and TBfree NZ on some initial research into the use of different bait types including deer repellent bait.
- We assisted Tuhoe to develop policy for the use of dogs in Te Urewera.
- We provided guidance on the Te Urewera Board's Statement of Priorities (10 Year Management Plan).
- We submitted on the Policing Cost Recovery Amendment Bill.
- We submitted on the Animal Welfare Amendment Act.
- We submitted on the National Bovine TB Plan Review
- We assisted DOC in development of their Bowhunting Permit Conditions document.
- We are working with MPI to clarify the legality of trading and gifting recreational harvest.
- We have provided the Minister with guidance on establishing an export trophy levy.

Budget

The GAC's financial year is 1 July to 30 June.

The Act requires that the Council be self-funded, however the levies provided for under the Act, are yet to be established. Until the necessary Regulations for the collection of levies are passed, the voluntary payment of levies and DOC annual funding remain our only financial resource and this puts the GAC in a very precarious position. The funding is too limiting to allow us to make significant progress on our agreed Strategic Plan.

A case was recently developed to secure sufficient Government funding to establish the export trophy levy and put the GAC on a permanent, secure footing which will allow development of other funding streams.

The eventual establishment of a National Office, appointment of a CEO and other staff members will provide the human resources to permit us to progress our work plan.

Department of Conservation

We have been fortunate to have had a strong relationship with the Department and their assistance and advice is acknowledged.

The GAC has put considerable effort into developing a strong relationship with stakeholders, none more so than the Department of Conservation. The Council is pleased with the relationship that has evolved and will continue to build on it.

It is imperative that we continue to maintain clear lines of communication to cement our good relationship. It is also incumbent on planners in both central and local government to recognise the statutory responsibilities conferred under the GAC Act and ensure the Council is consulted on areas of mutual responsibility and in planning and policy decisions.

Ruahine Deer Management

There has been some conflict between hunters and the Department over Department-initiated changes in aerial hunting regulations in the lower North Island. The Council has been instrumental in establishing, a Department-led process engaging with recreational and commercial hunters, the Ruahine Deer Working Group.



The Working Group is co-operatively identifying hunter preferences and will help to create a deer management plan for the Ruahine Forest Park that is consistent with the values in the Conservation Management Strategy.

Export Levy on Game Animal Trophies

Government funding has been secured to establish the export trophy levy. With this funding in place it is now possible to engage the resources required to have the levy implemented as quickly as possible.

There remains however a considerable amount of work to do to complete the necessary design, consultation and regulatory work to have the levy in place. It is hoped that there will be considerable progress to report on this in next year's report.

Herds of Special Interest (HOSI)

There is still much work to be done on processes for establishing Herds of Special Interest, and the nature and detailed content of management plans for Herds of Special Interest. Completing this work requires significant GAC resources, which we presently do not have.

We have published a set of minimal criteria that must be attained before the GAC will consider any proposal for a Herd of Special Interest, and have invited interested groups to develop initial proposals.

We are encouraged by the progress made to date with regard to three herds; the Fiordland Wapiti Herd, the Central North Island Sika Herd and the South Island Tahr Herd. All three have formalised foundations with support from interested participants and experts.

We look forward to finalising procedural detail with DOC, including a template which groups would use to formally nominate herds that may meet the criteria for a recommendation to the Minister as required under the Act.



Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting (AATH)

An AATH Code of Practice (COP) was provided to the Minister and has been endorsed by him. He has instructed the Department of Conservation to implement the code through the most appropriate mechanism. It will also be necessary to consult other government departments and groups through a submission process before the COP can be submitted to Cabinet for approval and gazettal.



Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) – Statutory Processes Working Group

Commercial and recreational hunters play a significant role in assisting the Department in its game management activities.

The GAC's Statutory Processes Working Group continues to monitor the Department of Conservation's strategy documents as they are revised and provides input when necessary.

The Game Animal Council has been endeavouring to educate policy makers and groups on the interpretation and implications of differences between Wild and Game Animals as referred to in various legislation and management documents.

Other activities

During the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 the Game Animal Council:

- Hosted a Parliamentary Hunt at Mt Nicolas Station which was well attended by parliamentarians, several of whom were participating for the first time in this activity while exploring NZ's great outdoors in a beautiful and remote part of NZ. The next Parliamentary Hunt will be at Ngamatea Station from 3 to 7 October 2016. We are indebted to the various Game Estates and Hunting Guides who look after the parliamentarians on these hunts, providing the locations and hosting in general.
- GAC Councillors acted as expert witnesses for SPCA Prosecutions for animal cruelty where the defence was attempting to claim the acts were acceptable hunting behaviour.
- Completed work on our Vision Statement and Strategic Plan and put into plan a succession plan for the eventual turn-over of Councillors.
- Continually developed website and information systems, which constantly evolve to meet Council's needs
- Hosted a delegation from Japan
- Facilitated a process on behalf of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Council (NAWAC) to define "acceptable hunting practice" to allow application of the amended Animal Welfare Act. Each of the agencies that participated in the process (NZ Deerstalkers' Association, NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association, NZ Pig Hunters' Association, Safari Club International (NZ), NZ Association of Game Estates, and NZ Bow Hunters Society) agreed ratified the definition and agreed to implement processes within their organisations to clarify and promote acceptable practices.



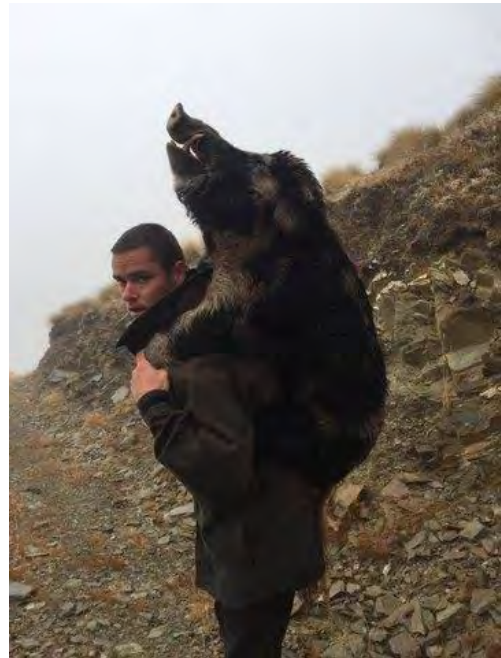
Other organisations and relationships

New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA)

The GAC continues to work closely with the NZDA. Notable was the high level of co-operation in development of a mitigation plan for Battle for our Birds. The NZDA also offered significant support for establishment of the Ruahine Working Group.

New Zealand Pig Hunters Association (NZPHA)

The NZPHA has worked closely with the GAC to make OSPRI more transparent in its dealings around TB control. It has worked alongside GAC and the SPCA to ensure guilty parties are brought to justice in cases of breaches of Animal Welfare in the hunting environment. The NZPHA shares a strong bond with GAC in ensuring that the best outcome can be achieved with the revamp of the National Firearms Licensing Programme and with GAC, continues to keep a watching brief on the Kauri Die Back disease.



New Zealand Professional Hunting Guides Association (NZPHGA)

The Professional Hunting Guides Association presented the GAC with their Training Manual and after it being reviewed by Council members some amendments were suggested.

These amendments have been completed and the council has endorsed this manual with a rider that (as this is a 'living' document) the Council be notified of any major additions or alterations to the curriculum.

It was also reported that 54 guides (both male and female) have gone through the intensive 5-day course to date with 3 needing to return for reassessment on some of the units.

All new persons applying to join the Association need to successfully complete this course within 1 year of applying. Many existing members have also completed the course.

The Guides Academy is also supported financially by Safari Club International by an amount over US\$7000/annum.

New Zealand Association of Game Estates (NZAGE)

As with the Hunting Guides, the Association of Game Estates are also seeking GAC accreditation of their standards to ensure high quality systems are in place. The Council looks forward to working with the Association to further this.

Safari Club International (SCINZ)

The New Zealand Chapter of the world's largest hunting and conservation group, SCI, are very strong supporters of the GAC and the parent Board members have been called upon for their recommendations about the implementation of the Export Levy program. Their support is acknowledged.



Fiordland Wapiti Foundation

The Fiordland Wapiti Foundation is in regular communication with the Council, and has submitted an initial proposal for a Wapiti Herd of Special Interest. The Herd of Special Interest management requirements and approval processes have not been finalised, so this proposal has not been progressed at this time.

OSPRI

The Game Animal Council has continued to develop its relationship with OSPRI. Some of the bovine TB management methods employed by OSPRI have significant adverse effects on hunters and game animals. The GAC is helping to develop mechanisms through which hunters can be made aware of planned OSPRI operations as early as possible, and with information that allows hunters to clearly understand the implications of the operations. This will enable better identification of adverse effects and enhance their communication to better inform planning and approval processes at OSPRI, DOC and regional Councils. The GAC works directly with OSPRI to clarify and monitor processes and effects, to gain a better understanding of OSPRI processes, and to communicate those to hunters. OSPRI representatives have attended GAC meetings at our invitation.

Mountain Safety Council

The MSC has gone through significant change, and has engaged with the GAC late in that process. The GAC has aired significant concerns about the loss of technical skills in the MSC related to firearms safety, and firearms licensing processes. In the interests of safety and compliance, the GAC advocates for effective, practical, affordable and accessible firearms training throughout the country. The GAC supports the MSC's initiatives to reduce hunting accidents, and its desires to raise

awareness about the risk factors associated with hunting. There are limitations in the data that MSC currently uses, which we will work with MSC to improve.

[Sika Foundation, Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, Tahr Foundation](#)

All three organisations are now formally established as incorporated societies and are working towards obtaining Herd of Special Interest status for the game animals specific to their areas. All three herds are of great interest to New Zealand and international hunters. The Council continues to attend meetings of these Foundations whenever possible, and to provide advice.

[Looking forward](#)

In the 2016-17 year we will, using the targeted Budget allocation via DOC, continue to work with the Department and contractors to establish the export levy.

Levy funding will enable the GAC to provide a higher standard of service, through employment of staff to manage the organisation and provide enhanced interactions with stakeholders. Councillors have been providing these services on a voluntary basis, which has been a significant distraction from their governance role.

The year ahead will be focussed, measurable and relevant to our industry and the opportunities which, when leveraged, will result in increased progress for priority matters.

At the time of writing this report, we are close to finalising the pathway to the implementation of the Export Levy on Trophies.



[Statement of financial performance](#)

The Game Animal Council uses Reeder Smith Accountants in Rotorua. Viv Cotton of Cotton Kelly in Palmerston, has been engaged as auditor for a three year term.

APPENDIX 1

Policy statement on the use of toxins to control pests in New Zealand

1. The Game Animal Council:

1. Advocates for the general policy of reducing the use of toxins in our environment.
2. Acknowledges the need to use toxins to control some pest species for both conservation and biosecurity control reasons until other control methods are developed and implemented.
3. Maintains that there is no justification to use toxins for the control of game animals in New Zealand and opposes such use. (Note: There may be extreme circumstances requiring total de-population where poisoning could be justified on a case by case basis.)
4. Strongly advocates for a national policy on the use of toxins, which has regard to, consultation, science, mitigation, animal welfare, residue safety, marketing and tourism perceptions, consistency of application, alternative options and adoption of best practice.
5. Supports the allocation of sufficient resources for finding alternatives to the use of toxins in the environment.
6. Maintains that, prior to the application of toxins, a consultation process should be completed that:
 - Meets accepted principles and standards for consultation;
 - Is transparent, and all available information is provided;
 - Allows affected parties to identify potential mitigation measures;
 - Is consistent nationally throughout all agencies.
7. Maintains that each application of toxins should:
 - Be based on sound science;
 - Be designed for the target species, and minimise the by-kill of game animals and other non-target species;
 - Ensure humane standards in the killing of target species;
 - Ensure that there is no possibility of residues entering the food production system or entering recreationally harvested game meat;
 - Minimise adverse effects on the environment;
 - Adequately assess mitigation measures, and use mitigation where appropriate.

2. Background

The Game Animal Council, established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013, is a statutory agency with responsibilities for, *inter alia*, representing game animal hunters, and advising on and managing aspects of game animal hunting. Game animals are feral pigs, chamois, tahr, and all species of deer.

3. Game animals in New Zealand

1. New Zealand's game animals are an important recreational, social and economic resource.
2. All large game in this country (deer, tahr, chamois and pigs) are susceptible to toxins. In addition, dogs, used in both farming and recreation, are fatally susceptible to the toxin 1080 at dose rates sub-lethal for ungulates, including secondary poisoning.
3. Wild game species typically are found in the same localities as pest species targeted for control by poisoning. In addition, deer farms and game estates often share boundaries with public land administered by the State. Toxin applications on public lands can have significant adverse effects on wild and managed game species.
4. All game species in New Zealand are harvested for food and, while deer farming accounts for the vast majority of game meat exports, wild game is a significant food source for export and domestic consumption.
5. The combination of recreational hunting and aerial recovery expertise developed over the past 40 years provides a significant component of the management of New Zealand's game populations at no cost to the government. Game animals are generally at low densities and can be managed effectively by recreational and/or commercial hunting, or in targeted species-specific control operations. There is currently no justification for the use of toxins as a control measure for game animal species.

4. Game species as an economic resource

1. The deer industry had total export earnings of \$255 million for the 2015 year. NZ Venison returns have risen, assisted considerably by the perception internationally of venison as a safe food item. The game estate and guided hunting industries have earnings of approximately \$15 million annually and have considerable potential for expansion. Internationally, New Zealand is considered to be the world's premier destination for hunted red deer stags and Himalayan tahr and is increasingly recognised for the quality of its other game species. It is considered a safe, stable, unpolluted country, and attracts a discerning, influential hunting clientele. Additionally, many of these clients have considerable further non-hunting related expenditure as part of their trip to NZ.
2. Expenditure by New Zealanders on recreational game hunting is in the order of \$170 million annually. Less easy to quantify, but probably of greater significance, is the role hunting plays in maintaining mental and physical health, and the recreation benefits enjoyed by thousands.
3. The use of toxins has the potential to jeopardise each of these industries.

4. The use of toxins in pest control

1. The Game Animal Council supports the need to control specific pest species because of their health and environmental effects. The Council recognises threats to New Zealand's natural ecology and the risk that an unacceptable incidence of Tb presents to New Zealand's

2. agricultural trade. The validity of using toxins to manage pest populations is acknowledged, until alternative methods are available.
3. However, there appears to be no unequivocal policy from pest control agencies to avoid killing game animals with toxins while targeting pests. There are many recorded instances of collateral deaths to both wild and farmed game animals from possum poisoning operations. This level of by-kill in game species is highly variable (between 10% and 90%).
4. While the documented recovery of native birds following successful pest control is acknowledged, the impacts of game species ingesting pesticides either accidentally or deliberately are substantial.
5. There are tools available to minimise the by-kill of non-target species, and of particular significance is a repellent that reduces the likelihood of game animals ingesting 1080 baits. The Game Animal Council advocates strongly that all agencies use such tools to minimise the unnecessary by-kill of game animals.

6. Discussion

1. **Consultation.** Whilst the Game Animal Council supports pest control for conservation and biosecurity, each operation may have varying effects on hunters and others with an interest in a particular place. It is important that affected parties have an opportunity through due process to identify these effects and be involved in assessing and recommending appropriate mitigation measures. Such consultation must be open and transparent, with all information (including, *inter alia*, toxin type, toxin strength, application rates/ha, bait types and sizes, pre-baiting techniques, application methods, mitigation methods) made available as part of the consultation.
2. **Science.** The Council promotes science-based decision making. It is important that agencies using toxins have good science to support the need to use a particular toxin, the effects that toxin will have, and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. The absence of good science, or failure to communicate that science adequately, has the potential to undermine community acceptance of proposed toxin applications.
3. **Residues.** Whilst not directly presenting a threat to the farmed venison trade, given the application systems and residue monitoring programmes in place, any activity which may result in game meat being associated with a potential residue risk has the ability to cause considerable difficulties in the marketplace. Discerning consumers worldwide are particularly cautious following food safety scares in Europe. Hunted game for private consumption is not subjected to the same levels of monitoring as processed meat and the possibility of contamination poses a real risk.
4. The absence of a consistent national policy on the use of toxins has resulted in: - Different agendas between agencies;
 - Variable consultation protocols and standards;
 - Public confusion and concern;
 - Inconsistency of application;
 - Pressure to halt the use of toxins before alternatives have been found.

5. Recommendation

The Game Animal Council urges all agencies with statutory responsibility for biosecurity, conservation and pest control (DOC, Ministry for the Environment, MPI, OSPRI, Regional

Councils) to establish a common policy and operating protocols to ensure consistent application and defensible standards.

APPENDIX 2

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Performance Report

**For the period ended
30 June 2016**

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New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Responsibility

For the period ended
30 June 2016

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

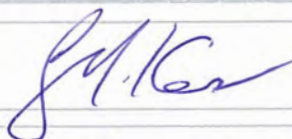
In the opinion of the Council, the financial statements and service performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Council for the period ending 30 June 2016.

Signed on behalf of the Council



Name

Don Hammond



Name

Geoff Kerr

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Entity Information

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

For the period ended
30 June 2016

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

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 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 of 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 Game Trophy Export Levy. While it is envisaged that the Council will be self funding in the future in part from Game Trophy Export 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 2015/16.

Contact details

Physical Address:	1209 Hinemaru Street, Rotorua 3010
Postal Address:	P O Box 1715, Rotorua 3040
Phone/Fax:	Phone 07 349 8366 Fax 07 349 0609
Email/Website:	www.nzgac.govt.nz

New Zealand Game Animal Council
Statement of Service Performance
"What did we do?", When did we do it?"
For the period ended
30 June 2016

Description of the Entity's Outcomes*:

Appointment 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 Practice for Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting. Socialising a Game Trophy Export Levy.

	Actual*	Budget	Actual
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):*	This Year	This Year	Last Year
Formation of Working Groups - Statutory Processes, AATH Working Group, Herds of Special Interest, Finance & Administration, Training and Education.	Achieved		Achieved
Development of the Website	N/A		Achieved
Development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan	N/A		Achieved
Hold Council meetings	5 Meetings	5 meetings	11 Meetings
Develop Aerial Assisted Trophy Hunting Code of Practice for Minister's consideration	N/A		Achieved December 2014
Attend Trade Shows and represent Council (Sika Show and Tahr Show).	Achieved		Achieved
Respond and represent Hunters in Policy and Operational issues affecting Hunting	Achieved		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 seeking input into hunting related matters.

Additional Information:

Ongoing development of relationships with key stakeholders.
 Contribution to DOC planning for our "Battle for Our Birds" programme

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Financial Performance

"How was it funded?" and "What did it cost?"

For the period ended

30 June 2016

	Note	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$	Actual* Last Year \$
Revenue				
Funding from central government*		50,000		150,000
Revenue for providing goods or services*		-		50
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue*		-		-
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue*		1,032		1,545
Other revenue		-		-
Total Revenue*		51,032	-	151,595
Expenses				
Employee Related Costs		-		-
Operational Costs		37,446		47,244
Council Related Costs		30,757		46,935
Administration Costs		13,853		15,187
Depreciation		672		672
Total Expenses*		82,728	-	110,038
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year*		(31,696)	-	41,557

New Zealand Game Animal Council
Statement of Financial Position
 "What the entity owns?" and "What the entity owes?"
 As at
 30 June 2016

	Note	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$	Actual* Last Year \$
Assets				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts and cash*		26,592		51,056
Debtors and prepayments*		-		-
Inventory*		-		-
Other current assets		2,703		1,690
Total Current Assets		29,295	-	52,746
Non-Current Assets				
Property, plant and equipment*		672		1,344
Investments*		-		-
Other non-current assets		-		-
Total Non-Current Assets		672	-	1,344
Total Assets*		29,967	-	54,090
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Bank overdraft*		-		-
Creditors and accrued expenses*		20,106		12,533
Employee costs payable*		-		-
Unused donations, grants and government funding		-		-
Other current liabilities		-		-
Total Current Liabilities		20,106	-	12,533
Non-Current Liabilities				
Loans*		-		-
Total Non-Current liabilities		-	-	-
Total Liabilities*		20,106	-	12,533
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)*		9,861	-	41,557
Accumulated Funds				
Capital contributed by owners*		-		-
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)*		(139)		1,557
Establishment Funding Reserves*		10,000		40,000
Total Accumulated Funds*		9,861	-	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 2016

	Actual* This Year \$	Budget This Year \$	Actual* Last Year \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities*			
Cash was received from:			
Funding from central or local government*	50,000		150,000
Receipts from non-govt sources for providing goods or services*	-		50
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts*	-		-
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts*	1,545		1,545
Net GST	(1,173)		(1,690)
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to suppliers and employees*	74,836		96,833
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities*	(24,464)	-	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*	(24,464)	-	51,056
Opening Cash*	51,056		-
Closing Cash*	26,592	-	51,056
This is represented by:			
Bank Accounts and Cash*	26,592	-	51,056

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Statement of Accounting Policies

"How did we do our accounting?"

For the period ended
30 June 2016

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.

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 and to provide an audit report within 4 months of the end of the financial year. Both of these deadlines were not achieved.

Budget

The Council has not prepared a budget for the 2016/17 financial year.

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2016

Note 1 : Analysis of Revenue

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

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year	Budget	Actual
Revenue from non-governmental sources for providing goods or services	Licencing fees	-	-	50
	Total	-	-	50

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year	Budget	Actual
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue				
	Total	-	-	-

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Period	Budget	Actual
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	Interest	1,032	-	1,545
	Total	1,032	-	1,545

Revenue Item	Analysis	This Year	Budget	Actual
Other revenue				
	Total	-	-	-

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended

30 June 2016

Note 2 : Analysis of Expenses

Expense Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Employee related costs				
	Total	-	-	-

Expense Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Operating Costs	Advertising	-		1,631
	Executive Officer Contract	34,480		36,648
	Travel	-		4,426
	Web Training and Development	-		1,860
	Game Management	2,300		2,369
	Hunter Safety Standards and Certification	-		310
	Improve Acceptance of Hunting	230		-
	Funding	436		-
	Total	37,446	-	47,244

Expense Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Council Related Costs	Accommodation	787		5,095
	Air Travel	16,127		13,543
	Local Travel	3,272		11,595
	Meetings	3,398		3,584
	Mileage Allowance	270		270
	Per Diems (GST)	4,460		6,933
	Per Diems (No GST)	2,443		5,915
	Total	30,757	-	46,935

Expense Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Administration expenses	Accountancy	800		2,314
	Audit Fee	3,480		3,100
	Interest and Bank Fees	510		336
	Communications	2,355		1,340
	General	345		371
	Printing & Stationary	637		2,617
	Rent	5,726		5,109
	Total	13,853	-	15,187

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2016

Note 3 : Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Asset Item	Analysis	This Period \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Bank accounts and cash	Business Edge Account	14,015		9,009
	Business Credit Card	-		502
	Business On line Call Fund	12,577		41,545
	Total	26,592	-	51,056

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

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Other current assets	GST Receivable	2,703		1,690
	Total	2,703	-	1,690

Asset Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Investments				
	Total	-	-	-

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

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2016

Note 3 : Analysis of Assets and Liabilities

Liability Item	Analysis	This Year \$	Budget \$	Actual \$
Creditors and accrued expenses	Trade and other payables	15,798		7,243
	Accrued expenses	3,480		5,290
	Credit Card	828		-
Total		20,106	-	12,533

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

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

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

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

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

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2016

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*	1,344	-		672	672
Total	1,344	-	-	672	672

Last 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

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 2016

Note 5: Accumulated Funds

This Year				
Description*	Capital Contributed by Owners*	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits*	Reserves*	Total*
Opening Balance	-	1,557	40,000	41,557
Capital contributed by owners *	-			-
Capital returned to owners *	-			-
Surplus/(Deficit)*		(31,696)		(31,696)
Distributions paid to owners*		-		-
Transfer to Reserves*		-	-	
Transfer from Reserves*		30,000	(30,000)	
Closing Balance	-	(139)	10,000	9,861

Last Year				
Description*	Capital Contributed by Owners *	Accumulated Surpluses or Deficits*	Reserves*	Total*
Opening Balance	-	-	-	-
Capital contributed by owners*				-
Capital returned to owners *				-
Surplus/(Deficit)*		41,557		41,557
Distributions paid to owners *		-		-
Transfer to Reserves*		(40,000)	40,000	
Transfer from Reserves*		-	-	
Closing Balance	-	1,557	40,000	41,557

Breakdown of Reserves		Actual*	
Name*	Nature and Purpose*	This Year	
		\$	
Export Levy Development Reserve	DOC Funding received to assist in the development of the export levy that is currently unspent at balance date	10,000	
Total		10,000	

New Zealand Game Animal Council

Notes to the Performance Report

For the period ended
30 June 2016

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	696
	2 to 5 years	-
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 2016

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

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)

Note 11: Ability to Continue Operating*

N/A

Note 12: Correction of Errors*

N/A

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 2016**

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 16, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, 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 2016; 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 2016, 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 30 August 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