

Notice

25 April 2019



Game Animal Council
NEW ZEALAND

Transition to Alert Level 3

Alert Level 3 rules for hunting

We have been getting plenty of questions from people wanting information on the specific rules for hunting under Level 3. This is what we know:

- Level 3 begins at midnight on 27 April, meaning Tuesday 28 April is the first day under Level 3 conditions. Hunting is not permitted under Level 4.
- Hunting is permitted on private land only (this includes iwi land). Public conservation land is not available for hunting.
- Hunters MUST get permission from landowners.
- Hunters may only hunt with others in their bubble.
- Hunters must stay within their region. While there is no specific definition over what a region is, advice we have received is that this guidance is principle-based with the intent being that you do not travel too far from home.
- Day hunts are allowed but overnight hunts are not.
- Hunting must only take place on foot. No quad bikes, helicopters or other motorised vehicles are to be used.
- It is critical that hunters take all the necessary safety and firearms precautions.

Level 3 will, all going well, last only a few weeks. Once we get down to Level 2 hunting on public conservation land will be allowed.

Plantation forests

While hunters play an important role in managing game animal numbers in many plantation forests, hunting on any private property is a privilege not a right. There may be very legitimate workplace health and safety reasons why permission is not given to hunt at certain times and hunters need to respect that. If permission is granted then hunters must strictly follow the rules as set out by the forest owner, leave alone any equipment located in and around the forest and make sure they take all the necessary safety precautions, especially making sure they positively identify their target.

Hunting permits

With hunting not permitted on public conservation land DOC are not issuing hunting permits and the function is not currently available on their website.

Tahr rut ballots

The 2020 tahr ballots are currently under review by DOC. GAC is working with DOC on a fair solution for those ballot holders that due to COVID-19 restrictions have and will be unable to use their ballots. Ballot holders will be directly contacted with more information about the status of their ballots in due course.

Deer roar ballots

Hunting blocks assigned to hunters as part of the 2020 deer roar ballots have been cancelled. Again, GAC is working with DOC on a fair solution for those hunters who missed out on accessing their ballots due to COVID-19. If ballot blocks outside the roar period do take place this will be determined by the alert level at the time of the ballot period.