

# Shut the gate on illegal hunting program

May 2017 | Primefact 1498 | First Edition

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## What is the *Shut the gate on illegal hunting program*?

Illegal hunting is a scourge on the NSW community, particularly in rural and regional areas. It can impact landholders socially, physically and mentally through:

- Harassment and intimidation.
- Destruction and disturbance of stock.
- Damage to farm infrastructure (tracks, gates, fences and signs).
- Potential biosecurity threats through the transport of feral animals, weeds or pathogens.
- The propagation of other rural crimes like stock theft and the theft of fuel and farm machinery.

The DPI Game Licensing Unit and NSW Police Force work closely with rural communities in NSW to assist them to detect and deter illegal hunting. The *Shut the gate on illegal hunting program* is part of a wider program to shut the gate on rural crime in NSW.

Specifically the *Shut the gate on illegal hunting program* aims to:

- Provide information on illegal hunting to the community.
- Empower communities to report illegal hunting every time it occurs and in a timely manner.
- Provide program material to assist landholders detect and deter illegal hunting.
- Assist the DPI Game Licensing Unit and NSW Police address illegal hunting through enhanced intelligence capabilities and joint operations.

## Hunting regulations in NSW

Hunting regulations in NSW are some of the most stringent in Australia and internationally.

Hunters require a Game Hunting Licence to hunt on declared public land or to hunt deer or native game birds on private land in NSW.

Landholders, employees of their properties or members of their household are exempt from these regulations when hunting on their own land.

Hunters, like all community members, must also abide by animal welfare and trespass laws as well as laws regulating the possession and use of firearms and other weapons.



Photo: A DPI Game Licensing Unit Inspector with a farmer discussing illegal hunting on a rural property.

## Signs of illegal hunting

**General signs of illegal hunting** – spent cartridges, signs with bullet holes, dead or injured animals with gunshot or other trauma wounds, arrows left in paddocks, vehicles with their number plates missing or obscured and stray hunting dogs, often without a microchip or a collar without identification.

**Any firearms use on public land at night** – licensed hunting using firearms on public land is only permitted during daylight hours.

**The presence of spotlights at night in conjunction with firearms use** – illegal hunters often use spotlights at night.

**The harming of native animals** – It is illegal to harm native animals without a permit from the National Parks and Wildlife Service or a licence to hunt native game birds from the Department of Primary Industries.

**Hunters not wearing an item of high-vis orange clothing** – licensed hunters must wear an item of high-vis orange clothing when hunting on public land in NSW.

## How you can help

Support your community and your neighbours – help the authorities address illegal hunting by reporting it each and every time it occurs.

- Report illegal hunting activity as soon as it is detected.
- Do not confront illegal hunters.
- Report illegal hunting by calling Crime Stoppers – 1800 333 000.
- You can also report illegal hunting online at [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au).

## Landholder's kit

The DPI Game Licensing Unit and NSW Police have developed a kit designed to provide program materials to assist landholders detect and deter illegal hunting.

The *Shut the gate on illegal hunting landholders kit* contains:

- 2 x A3 private property signs.
- 2 x A3 camera surveillance signs.
- 1 x Written permission book.
- Stickers and magnets.
- A copy of this Primefact.
- A copy of the 'Using infrared surveillance cameras' Primefact.



# Shut the gate on **ILLEGAL HUNTING**

To report illegal hunting  
call **Crime Stoppers** on  
**1800 333 000**

or report it online at  
[www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

For information on hunting regulations in NSW go to the DPI Game Licensing Unit homepage  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting)

Department of  
Primary Industries

## More information

For more information on the *Shut the gate on illegal hunting program* contact the NSW DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750, [game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit the DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting).

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Published by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

