



New South Wales

Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The objects of this Bill are as follows—

- (a) to amend the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002* to—
 - (i) abolish the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and replace it with the Conservation Hunting Authority, and
 - (ii) recognise and make provision for a right to hunt, and
 - (iii) abolish restricted game hunting licences and replace those licences with conservation hunting licences, and
 - (iv) provide that national park estate land must not be declared as land on which hunting is permitted,
- (b) to amend the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* to establish the Crown land that is available for hunting and the mechanisms by which Crown land may be made available for hunting.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on 1 July 2025.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 No 64

Schedule 1[1] amends the objects of the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 (the Act)*.

Schedule 1[2] amends the definitions section of the Act, including to make provision for a Minister for Hunting and Fishing. **Schedule 1[9], [17], [18], [20] and [23]** make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[4] and [11]–[13] rename restricted game hunting licences as conservation hunting licences and make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[7] makes an amendment of a statute law revision nature.

Schedule 1[8] inserts proposed sections 4A–4C concerning the right of individuals to hunt and the obligation of public sector land managers to consider the right to hunt when making land management decisions.

Schedule 1[10] substitutes the Act, Part 2, abolishing the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and providing for the establishment and functions of the Conservation Hunting Authority (the *Authority*). **Schedule 1[3], [21] and [22]** make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[14] provides that national park estate land may not be declared under the Act as land on which hunting is permitted. **Schedule 1[5], [6] and [26]** make consequential amendments.

Schedule 1[15] and [16] make amendments concerning inspectors, including to provide that inspectors are not subject to the direction of the Authority.

Schedule 1[19] makes an amendment concerning the expenditure of money from the Game and Pest Management Trust Fund.

Schedule 1[24] makes an amendment concerning the appointment of the Chairperson of the Authority.

Schedule 1[25] makes an amendment to include camels on the list of non-indigenous game animals the hunting of which on public land requires a licence.

Schedule 1[27] makes transitional arrangements concerning the abolition of the Game and Pest Management Advisory Board and the conversion of restricted game hunting licences to conservation hunting licences.

Schedule 2 Amendment of Game and Feral Animal Control Regulation 2022

Schedule 2[1] and [2] make amendments consequent on Schedule 1[4].

Schedule 3 Amendment of Crown Land Management Act 2016 No 58

Schedule 3[1] inserts proposed Part 9A into the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* to establish the mechanisms by which Crown land may be made available for hunting, and the process to be followed by a licensed hunter who wishes to hunt on Crown land that is available for hunting. Proposed section 9A.4 is a Henry VIII provision.

Schedule 3[2] inserts proposed Schedule 5A into the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* to specify Crown land that will be available for hunting.

Schedule 4 Amendment of other Acts

Schedule 4.1[1] and [2] make amendments to the objectives of land managers under the *Forestry Act 2012* and require the land manager of a forestry area to consult with the Authority when reviewing a management plan or working plan for the area.

Schedule 4.2 amends the *Weapons Prohibition Act 1998* to provide that conservation hunting may be considered a genuine reason for the Commissioner of Police to issue a permit for the possession and use of a prohibited weapon.