

# New Zealand Pig Hunting Association Inc



Newsletter – August 2017

Welcome to the August newsletter.

The 8<sup>th</sup> NZ Pig Hunting Association AGM was held in June with representation from pig hunting clubs across the country.

The highlight being the decision to underwrite a national Public Liability policy for member clubs bringing to an end some 18 months of work.

The policy is available to all NZPHA affiliated clubs at a cost of \$5.75 per member of \$5 million cover.

## **In the News.**

**The Firearms Safety Council of Aoteroa** bid to take over the licensing of firearms holders contract from the Mountain Safety Council has met all legal and financial obligations in lodging its application with a decision expected shortly.

The nationwide policy for payment for wild pigs heads taken for TB analysis has reached **OSPRI** CEO Michelle Edge and we are currently awaiting a response.

The recommendation discussed in the last newsletter regarding the wearing of **HiViz clothing** on DoC / public land has been lodged with the department.

It's **election year** and we have posed some questions to each of the political parties around their views on Predator Free NZ, the role of the Game Animal Council, and the potential for hunting licences in NZ.

Check out the NZPHA web page ([www.nzpighunting.org.nz](http://www.nzpighunting.org.nz)) for the responses.

All clubs are reminded of the increasing requirements with regards to **animal welfare**. Prosecutions can and will result if grounds exist to suggest there are any grounds for animal cruelty. Please ensure your members are well aware of the risks associated with the use of social media!

By all means celebrate our sport but do it in a way that ensures we can all continue to enjoy it.

As many readers would be aware, the recent appointments to the **NZ Game Animal Council** have caused some apprehension within the NZ Pig Hunting Association and recreational hunters as a whole.

It is of concern to the NZPHA that the current council lacks experience in those matters specific to recreational hunters and that there is an absence of any recognised representation for pig hunters specifically.

NZPHA representatives were members of the GAC establishment committee that recommended that the proposed council “be all inclusive and multi-representational” and that it “saw no benefit to the sector as a whole in a more narrowly focussed body that would only perpetrate and increase past conflicts”.

The NZPHA has contacted the Minister seeking clarity around the appointment process for councillors and expressing our concern as to the absence of any recreational hunting voice.

The response has been disappointing.

The GAC Chairman (Don Hammond) has sought to meet with the NZPHA and better understand our fears as the opportunity still exists for the Minister to appoint a further two councillors.

Mr Hammond has offered the NZPHA an assurance that he will endeavour to raise the matter directly with the minister, albeit we are mindful that it is an election year and the matter may well not be heard until after the votes have been counted.

Given the increasing rhetoric around the use of toxins, predator free NZ, animal welfare, and hunting licences, the NZPHA will continue to lobby for representation on the GAC

Please be assured that we will do everything we can to successfully maintain a voice of behalf of all our members. We continue to enjoy a positive relationship with the Minister and the council, whilst remaining politically neutral.

That said, we get one option every three years to be heard so please ensure you use your vote wisely in the pending election and protect our recreational hunting rights for future generations.

### **Wanting to make a difference?**

Contact the Minister directly and ask for NZPHA representation on the GAC [peter.dunne@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:peter.dunne@parliament.govt.nz)

In April 2017 the government changed the legislation around the use of 1080 poison by introducing the **Resource Management Exemption Regulations**.

The new regulations negate the need for a resource consent when using 1080, Broadifacoum, and Rotenone poisons.

The applicable Government entities can now drop 1080 where and when they like as long as they abide by the HSNO regulations (Hazardous Substances and New Organisms) without having to abide by the conditions placed on earlier consents such as the monitoring of wildlife, or consulting with groups such as the NZ Pig Hunting Association, NZ Deerstalkers Association and the NZ Game Animal Council.

There are effectively now no rules protecting wildlife or the property rights of people on neighbouring properties.

The only protection that still exists is that of an approved medical officer or binding health permit which would require water testing albeit after the fact and at a time when it will never yield a positive result.

The Government intends to massively increase the number of poison operations across the country as part of the Predator Free 2050 programme. Where possible please take the time to understand the activities potentially planned for your region.