



Back Country Hunting 2021 Annual Report



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NT Firearms Council (NTFC) wishes to acknowledge the support and cooperation of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWC) Director Lincoln Wilson, management and especially the Chief District Ranger Norm Greenfield and Park staff at Litchfield National Park who have made the Back Country Hunting (BCH) Program not only possible, but the on-going success it is.

The Council would also like to recognise the work of our Executive Officer Alan Sprigg in undertaking the day-to-day administration of the program, NTFC delegate Brian Boyle for the on-going coordination of the program and to those involved in the BCH training and assessment sessions: Alan Specketer, Daniel Horwood, Craig Verrier and Brian Boyle. The Council also thanks the volunteers (Tony Orr, Matt Osbourne, Steve Grubissa and Brian Boyle) who worked on clearing the campsites to open the block and Tony Orr and Brian Boyle who walked in and hand removed of Gamba grass outliers in the Northern Block.

The Council would also like to acknowledge the kind use of the Darwin Rifle Club rooms for the BCH Accreditation sessions.



The Northern Territory Firearms Council

The Northern Territory Firearms Council is an incorporated consultative and advisory body representing the interests of legitimate firearms owners and users throughout the Northern Territory. The Council is supported by the Northern Territory Government and solely funded by government financial grants which are used to resource the position of Executive Officer, fund the Council's operational functions, maintain the Mickett Creek Shooting Complex and manage the Council's Office in the Rifle Club building at Range #1.

1. INTRODUCTION

The primary purpose of the Back Country Hunting Program (BCH) is to provide hunters in the Northern Territory with areas of public land to hunt feral animals with firearms and to provide training, knowledge and information to assist hunters to hunt safely, legally, ethically and responsibly on public land. A pass in the Hunter Accreditation Course is one of the requirements for application to participate in the BCH.

To assist in the process of continual learning, the Northern Territory Firearms Council (NTFC) compiled a Hunter Accreditation Handbook. The Handbook was designed to be used by:

- hunters who:
 - wish to apply for access to the NT estate under the 'Back Country Hunting' initiative
 - want to further their knowledge of hunting methods, or
 - are hunting on public land for the first time.
- individuals, clubs and organisations as a learning guide for the reinforcement of knowledge and the safe and ethical practices of hunting.

The information provided in the Handbook is primarily based on the NSW Hunter Education Handbook (a hunter education course recognised by the International Hunter Education Association in the US) which the Hunting NSW Branch of the NSW Department of Primary Industries has kindly allowed the NTFC to use and adapt for BCH Accreditation.



1.1 PARTICIPATION IN THE BCH PROGRAM

Northern Territory Residents

Residents of the Northern Territory can participate in the BCH initiative subject to the following requirements:

- i. hold a current NT firearms licence
- ii. be a current member of a PWC Approved Hunting Organisation (all insurance certificates were submitted to PWC in 2021)
- iii. have a BCH accreditation from a PWC approved BCH assessor
- iv. have an appropriate BCH permit from PWC.

Residents outside of the Northern Territory

Residents of areas outside of the Northern Territory can participate in the BCH initiative subject to the following requirements:

- i. hold a current firearms licence accepted by the NT Police
- ii. be a member of a hunting club or organisation that holds \$20 million public liability which covers all members who participate in hunting on public land under permit or licence.
- iii. have a BCH accreditation from a PWC approved BCH assessor
- iv. have an appropriate BCH permit from PWC
- v. be accompanied by an NT Resident with a BCH accreditation and Permit on the permitted hunt.

1.2 THE BCH TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Hunter education training in accordance with the Handbook was provided at sessions organised at the Darwin Rifle Club and conducted by NTFC approved assessors.

Recognition of Prior Learning

To qualify for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in any of the fields covered in the Accreditation Course, the applicant must provide evidence of prior learning to BCH Assessor. The NSW Restricted Game Hunting Licence (R-Licence) was approved by the PWC and may be used as RPL for inter-State hunters for the BCH Program.

2. THE 2021 BCH PROGRAM REPORT

2.1 2021 BCH PROGRAM ANNUAL SET-UP

The facilities installed by PWC at the five camping areas in the hunting area continue to be enjoyed and respected by the hunters that use them. Over three weekends in April and May 2021, four volunteers were involved clearing grass at the campsites and around the toilets to protect the campsites and the toilets from planned burns or wildfires. This activity took longer this year (60 hours volunteer time) due to the seasonal growing conditions and amount of grass and shrub growth over the preceding Wet. The pit toilets were checked throughout the open period, all were functioning and held up well.



The dual lock system with an NTFC combination lock on the entrance gate to the hunting block on Stapleton Track continues to work well. The combination lock was removed by the PWC after the block was closed in December 2021. The lock will not be placed back on the gate until the block is open after the wet season in 2022 when Stapleton Track dries out sufficiently to allow access.

BCH funds could possibly be directed to a steel post and rail fence at the entrance to discourage illegal entry through cutting the fence.



2.2 NTFC BCH ACCREDITATION ASSESSORS

In 2021 there were two NTFC BCH approved assessors in Darwin: Alan Specketer and Brian Boyle; one in Katherine: Daniel Horwood and one, Craig Verrier, in Perth, WA; who ran accreditation sessions. The NTFC would like to acknowledge the time and efforts by these gentlemen for conducting the accreditation sessions and assessments for the BCH Program.

2.3 BCH accreditations

88 hunters received BCH education and accreditation in 2021 bringing the total BCH accreditations for 2016-2021 to 582. Fees collected in 2021 to cover NTFC administration costs for the accreditation courses totalled \$5,220. The fees collected were expended on Executive Officer salary for processing BCH accreditations (\$4,660) and compensation to assessors (\$560) for fuel costs to assessors for travel involved in running the sessions.



2.4 BCH HUNTER PERMITS AND RETURNS

152 BCH permits were issued in 2021. Permits are initially received by the NTFC Executive Officer who checks applicants have a BCH accreditation and currency of AHO membership. Permits are then sent to PWC Permits section for issuing. 195 hunters participated in the program in 2021 and reported hunting on 226 days of the 495 days booked (this difference can be accounted for in travel days in and out of block, rest days and hunters departing early to ensure meat taken does not spoil). 235 feral animals were taken by hunters in 2021. There has been a noticeable reduction in horse and buffalo sign on the block compared to when the program began five years ago.

| Feral animal | Number of animals shot in 2021 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pigs | 136 |
| Clean-skin cattle | 2 |
| Water buffalo | 62 |
| Cats | 1 |
| Horses | 34 |
| TOTAL | 235 |

2.5 BCH PERMIT FEES

Hunters were charged a fee of \$25 per permit day booked. Total BCH Permit daily fees received by the NTFC for 2021 was \$12,305. As per the Program MoU, these fees have been deposited in a trust account for expending in the BCH Program after consultation/approval by PWC.



An administration fee of \$30 was also charged to cover NTFC Executive Officer time for checking currency of hunter's firearms licence and membership of Approved Hunting Organisation prior to submitting them to PWC. This process saves PWC having to check and go back to hunters if application do not have all the information required.

Income received for the administration fee totalled \$5,850 The administration fees charged for the accreditation sessions and permit processing does not meet the cost (\$19,460) of processing and administering the program by the Executive Officer. The NTFC had agreed at its' February 2020 General Meeting to continue supporting this important program and make up the shortfall in administration costs.

2.6 BCH HUNTER COMPLIANCE WITH PERMIT CONDITIONS

There were no issues with permitted hunters complying with permit conditions in the BCH block in Litchfield for the 2021 hunting period from May to November.



There were several short notice closures of the hunting block in the hunting period due to fires in the area and for the for dealing with unexploded WWII ordinance. Hunters willingly complied with closures or requests to leave the area. Hunters also provided four reports of illegal hunting for PWC as part of the program.

2.8 BCH VOLUNTEER HOUR CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2021

Volunteer hours associated with the BCH program in 2021 totalling 1,876 hours) are itemised below:

- 2021 BCH camp set-up: 60 hours
- Gamba grass removal by grubbing remote outliers in northern block: 20 hours
- BCH accreditation sessions: 24 hours
- BCH program coordination: 200 hours
- Collating statistics and writing BCH Annual Report: 12 hours
- Hunting and travel time: 1560 hours



2.9 BCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO PARK OPERATIONS IN 2021

In agreement with Parks, The NTFC agreed to the following contributions from the BCH Program Trust account:

- \$3,025 for the purchase of an Accufire vehicle-mounted firelighter to assist with trackside ignition in burn programs. The unit was used in the BCH block and elsewhere in Litchfield National Park and greatly assisted in increasing operations efficiency.
- \$6,000 was expended on helicopter operations to contribute to spraying a firebreak with the BCH block to give the early season burns a much better break burn within the block

3.0 EXPANSION OF BCH PROGRAM TO OTHER AREAS

The introduction of the BCH Program has been a resounding success. The NTFC would like to enter into discussions with PWC and the NT Government to ascertain other areas where the BCH Program can be undertaken.

APPENDIX ONE: 2021 BCH Income and expenditure

| | Income | Expenditure |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Permit admin fees | \$ 5,850 | |
| Permit daily fees | \$12,305 | |
| BCH Accreditation fees | \$ 5,220 | |
| Total income in 2021 | \$23,375.00 | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Reimbursement for assessor's travel costs | | \$ 550 |
| Reimbursement for volunteers' fuel and food costs for set-up | | \$ 788.21 |
| AccuFire machine donated to PWC | | \$ 3,025 |
| Helicopter spraying of firebreak | | \$ 6,000 |
| Executive Officer administration costs (278 hrs) | | \$19,460 |
| Total expenditure in 2021 | | \$29,823.21 |

APPENDIX TWO: AHO Public Liability Insurance Certificates

1. Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Inc



INSURANCE AND CLAIMS MANUAL

2020 / 2021

Prepared for
**SPORTING SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA INC**

Prepared by
SSAA GENERAL INSURANCE BROKERS

AS AN AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE OF PSC CONNECT





PUBLIC & PRODUCTS LIABILITY

INSURED:

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (NSW) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (QLD) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (VIC) Limited
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (ACT) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (SA) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (WA) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (NT) Incorporated
 Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (TAS) Incorporated

The executives, committees, sub-committees, branches, affiliated clubs, members, range officers, trainers, coaches and authorised visitors and SSAA Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd

OCCUPATION:

- Firearms sports administration, fundraising, and club activities including publication and media
- Historical re-enactment
- Practice, tournaments, and other competition sanctioned by SSAA
- Hunting and conservation groups
- Property owners and occupiers, affiliated clubs and branches, ranges and recreational grounds
- SSAA firearm dealers and SSAA owned retail gun stores
- Re-loading ammunitions at SSAA St Mary's and NSW Sydney Silverdale Range
- Including SSAA Members for all lawful recreational shooting including bow hunting or target archery (except where cover is provided under membership of a shooting association)

GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITS:

Worldwide excluding USA & Canada and any other country which operates under the laws of America and Canada.

Australia Wide - Lawful Recreational Shooting

THE BUSINESS:

- Property Owners & Occupiers, affiliated clubs, ranges, recreational grounds (3000 acres of camping ground used for member shooting activities. Ground have accommodation facilities, dams, water sports and are used by SSAA clubs and members)
- Affiliated clubs and their sanctioned activities in relation to sports shooting activities, historical re-enactments, fundraising and club activities (club fundraising event / functions are limited to a maximum attendance of 500 people).





Some clubs have restricted alcohol licenses, cooking facilities for club teas, etc, BBQ areas. Some of the larger clubs allow campers / caravans on their club grounds when hosting state / national competitions - campers use club toilets / shower facilities (no charge)

- Gun dealers within the clubs
- SSAA Insurance Brokers
- Including SSAA Members - all lawful recreational shooting including bow hunting or target archery (except where cover is provided under membership of a shooting association)
- SSAA ST MARY'S, NSW Sydney Silverdale Range and SSAA Silverdale Pistol Club - reloading ammunitions.

WORDING:

Hospitality and Leisure Insurance Policy Wording vDTW0120

SECURITY:

100% Certain Underwriters at Lloyds

SCHEDULE:

PUBLIC LIABILITY

Limit of Liability \$ 20,000,000

PRODUCTS LIABILITY

Limit of Liability \$ 20,000,000

PROPERTY IN CARE CUSTODY & CONTROL \$ 250,000

EXCESS:

You will pay the following amount(s) in respect of each Occurrence and/or Claim, except as stated elsewhere within Policy Endorsements:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|
| Property Damage | \$ 1,000 |
| Personal Injury | \$ 1,000 |
| Personal Injury to Shooting/Use of Guns | \$25,000 |
| Reloading Ammunition | \$ 5,000 |

COVERING THE INSURED'S LEGAL LIABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES FOR BODILY INJURY AND/OR PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY AN OCCURRENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE INSURED'S ACTIVITIES.



2. Australian Deer Association Inc.



Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd

A.C.N. 006 637 903
A.B.N. 43 006 637 903
AFS Licence No. 230914

CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY

CERTIFICATE NO. 60100

This certificate confirms that the under mentioned policy is effective in accordance with the details shown.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Name of Insured: | AUSTRALIAN DEER ASSOCIATION INC | |
| Cover: | Public Liability: | \$20,000,000 any one occurrence |
| | Products Liability: | \$20,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate |
| | Professional Indemnity: | Not Insured |
| | Management Liability: | Not Insured |
| Sport/Business: | ADMINISTRATION OF FIREARM HUNTING SPORTS | |
| Excess: | As per policy schedule. | |
| Period of Insurance: | 1/12/2021 to 1/12/2022 | |
| Underwriter: | Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's | |
| Policy Number: | PMEL99/0088075 | |
| Territorial Scope: | Worldwide | |
| Jurisdictional Limits: | Commonwealth of Australia and New Zealand | |
| Counterparties: | Any Council, Shire, School and Government Department from whom the above named leases and/or hires and/or rents or uses with written permission land and/or buildings shall be indemnified for claims brought against the Council, Shire, School or Government Department for which The Insured becomes legally liable to pay compensation. | |

For full terms, conditions and exclusions please refer to Your Policy Wording version Combined_Liability_Policy_Wording_07.21.



17/01/2022

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MANAGER
MELBOURNE • SYDNEY • LONDON

DATE



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INSURING SPORT SINCE 1986
2009, 2010 UNDERWRITING AGENCY OF THE YEAR
2014 GENERATION 1 YOUTH EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

3. Field and Game Australia Inc.



Sportscover Australia Pty Ltd

A.C.N. 006 637 903
A.B.N. 43 006 637 903
AFS Licence No. 230914

CERTIFICATE OF CURRENCY

CERTIFICATE NO. 55687

This certificate confirms that the under mentioned policy is effective in accordance with the details shown.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name of Insured: | FIELD & GAME AUSTRALIA INC | |
| Cover: | Public Liability: | \$25,000,000 any one occurrence |
| | Products Liability: | \$25,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate |
| | Professional Indemnity: | \$2,000,000 any one claim and in the aggregate |
| | Management Liability: | \$4,000,000 any one claim and in the aggregate (For The Business of Clay Target & Firearm Sports Club only) |
| Sport/Business: | Clay Target & Firearm Sports Club | |
| Excess: | As per policy schedule. | |
| Period of Insurance: | 31/3/2021 to 31/3/2022 | |
| Underwriter: | Certain Underwriters at Lloyd's | |
| Policy Number: | PMEL99/0088603 | |
| Counterparties: | None | |

For full terms, conditions and exclusions please refer to Your Policy Wording version Combined_Liability_Policy_Wording_02.21.



13/04/2021

DATE

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