

10 Australian Facts

- Hunters contribute at least \$40 million per year to the economy in one Australian state (Victoria) alone, which represents a major boost for regional communities¹.
- Since March 2006, volunteer hunters licensed through the Game Council (a Statutory Authority of the New South Wales Government) have removed more than 27 000 invasive animals from public land².
- In the Northern Territory, hunting is widely acknowledged as a way of ensuring the long term sustainability of waterbird populations³.
- In South Australia, hunters have worked with pastoralists and government to remove over 25 000 feral goats from the Flinders Ranges, as part of 'Operation Bounceback'⁴.
- In June 1998, the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee Inquiry into Commercial Utilisation of Australian Native Wildlife concluded that: "Hunting has considerable potential to assist with conservation objectives particularly for areas of land which are perceived to have little other economic value (such as swamps and wetlands). It also has the potential to contribute wealth...to local communities which may have little other opportunity to derive income from their land and wildlife."⁵
- Collaboration between governments and hunting associations is increasingly recognised as a vital aspect of successful conservation strategies⁶.
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources, endorses sustainable wildlife use enacted through practices such as waterfowl harvesting⁷. Australia is a Contracting Party to the Convention, and has 65 Ramsar listed sites⁸.
- Fee-paying hunting opportunities on Aboriginal managed land provide a means for Aboriginal Australians to utilise natural resources for economic advancement, as well as providing an incentive for wildlife conservation in those areas⁹.
- Hunting represents a key opportunity for 'biodiversity business' – the application of market-based principles to the sustainable use of wildlife, for the ultimate purpose of biodiversity conservation⁶.
- Australiawide, it is estimated that hunters generate over \$1 billion annually for the economy¹⁰.

References and further reading

1. Victorian Government. (2006). \$2.5 Million Boost for Game Hunting Management. Media Release, Bob Cameron, Minister for Agriculture. May 26, 2006. http://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/domino/Web_Notes/newmedia.nsf/b0222c68d27626e2ca256c8c001a3d2d/f7502e3ae397bd78ca25717d000124e8!OpenDocument
2. New South Wales Government. (2009). <http://www.gamecouncil.nsw.gov.au/portal.asp?p=ConservationScorecard>
3. Northern Territory Government. (2008). Waterfowl Hunting Season. Media Release, Len Keily, Minister for Parks and Wildlife. July 11, 2008. <http://newsroom.nt.gov.au/adminmedia/mailouts/4333/attachments/Kiely110708WaterfowlSeason.pdf>
4. South Australian Government, Department of Environment and Heritage. <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/ecocons.html#Bounceback>
5. Parliament of Australia. (1998). Senate Inquiry into Commercial Utilisation of Australian Native Wildlife. http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/completed_inquiries/1996-99/wild/report/a01.htm
6. Bishop, J., Kapila, S., Hicks, F., Mitchell, P., & Vorhies, F. (2008). Building Biodiversity Business. Shell International Limited and the International Union for Conservation of Nature: London, UK, and Gland, Switzerland. http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/bishop_et_al_2008.pdf
7. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. <http://www.ramsar.org/>
8. Australian Government. (2008). Australia's Ramsar Sites. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/publications/environmental/wetlands/pubs/ramsar.pdf>
9. Tisdell, C., & Nantha, H. S. (2008). Public attitudes to the use of wildlife by Aboriginal Australians: marketing of wildlife and its conservation. *International Journal of Green Economics*, 2(1): 108-122.
10. Bauer, J., & Giles, J. (2002). Recreational hunting: an international perspective. *Wildlife Tourism Research Report Series*, No.13.