



GAME COUNCIL

New South Wales

CONSERVATION HUNTING

Media Release

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Hunters and landholders stamping out pests

The formation of a new group in the Coffs Harbour area aims to link accredited, licensed hunters with landholders that are experiencing problems with feral animals.

The Coffs Harbour Conservation Hunting Group – a Game Council NSW initiative – will help landholders target some of the nation's worst pests such as pigs, goats, foxes, rabbits and wild deer.

The newly established group is modelled on the successful Port Macquarie-Hastings Conservation Hunting Group which now has 32 members who also assist in valuable research projects. These include blood sampling of animals culled for North Coast Area Health Service as part of its research into Barmah Forest Virus, as well as collection of jaw bones from deer for population dynamics research.

More than 20 licensed hunters attended the first meeting of the Coffs Harbour Conservation Hunting Group which will service landholders from Ulmarra in the north to Maxwell in the south, and west to Ebor.

Regional Game Manager for Game Council NSW, Craig Henderson, said the new group was working towards fostering and strengthening relationships between local hunters and landholders.

"The formation of this group is an excellent opportunity for licensed, responsible hunters to assist the community - free of charge – by helping control feral animals," he said. "Most hunters are true conservationists at heart and are keen to do their bit for the environment.

"The range of feral animals that can be controlled by members of the conservation hunting group is extensive. I encourage landholders to contact me if they require assistance."

Mr Warryck White, a hunter from Coffs Harbour, was appointed Hunter Co-ordinator for the Coffs Harbour Conservation Hunting Group which includes deer hunters, wild dog callers and hunters with vast experience in control foxes, rabbits, pigs and goats.

All hunters participating in the group are holders of a NSW **Restricted** Game Hunting Licence and are covered by \$10-million public liability insurance. All live locally.

Landholders who require assistance with feral animals and would like to engage licensed conservation hunters – free of charge – should contact Craig Henderson on (02) 6581 4084 or 0419 222 303.

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