

Fishing and Hunting

Dja Dja Wurrung On Country Rights

The Hunting Authorisation Order is a way for Dja Dja Wurrung people to engage in traditional hunting and fishing. Caring for Country is the living essence that is shared between people and place and is vital for maintaining our culture. The passing down of our traditions to the younger generations is how we have maintained our cultural identity over the passage of time and is the primary responsibility of Dja Dja Wurrung men and women. We teach our young ones how to scar trees, take bark, carve and decorate. We take them camping and teach them about where and how to harvest medicinal plants, find grubs and the best places to go hunting and fishing. We only use the land in a way that will make provision for future needs. We use natural resources by making traditional objects and artefacts, fishing, hunting and gathering and using plants for medicinal purposes. Through our cultural strengthening we are making traditional tools to use alongside contemporary methods.

Rodney Carter – Henry ‘Harmony’ Nelson descendant

Important tucker and medicine species can still be found across our Country. Yabbies’ (yapitj), Murray Cod (wirrap) and Blackfish (wulk), Possum (wila) and Kangaroo (kurri) are really important to Djaara and also to the ancestors. For example the areas around the townships of Dunolly, Maryborough, and St Arnaud have place names such as Leakuribur (lia-kurri-barr) meaning the creek where kangaroos eat, Laanecoorie (Laani-kurri) meaning place/habitat of the kangaroo and a small township called Kooreh (kurri) which is the word for eastern Grey kangaroo. This reflects the environment and what was available on these certain parts of Djaara country. We also have a

place name near Mt Kooyoora called Wehla (wila), which is our word for brush tail possum. Possums are important because our ancestors needed them to make possum skin cloaks (djarun) to keep warm in the cold season. Like our ancestors, today we make cloaks that also contain artwork recording of our stories, culture and law.

Harley Dunolly – Thomas Dunolly descendant

This page gives more detailed information about Dja Dja Wurrung hunting and fishing rights under the Recognition and Settlement Agreement. Please see the Introduction page for important general information about your rights before you read this page.

Note that you need to have your Verification Card with you whenever you are hunting or fishing under these Traditional Owner rights. When you’re hunting, you also need to carry your Firearms Licence at all times.

Reporting

You need to report back to the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation the number you’ve hunted each month. Limits apply to all Dja Dja Wurrung together, so check with the Corporation before you hunt. We will report the total amounts and work with the government to ensure that the amounts taken each year are sustainable.

Fishing

You can now catch and keep certain fish from waterways on Dja Dja Wurrung land without needing a recreational fishing licence. Secondly, under the Order, you can take and keep fish to meet your needs, your family’s needs or the non-commercial needs of your community. You can’t take them for commercial purposes, such as running a business selling fish.

You also need to follow the usual rules and catch limits set out in the *Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide* booklet or mobile app. Both can be found at the

Fishing and Hunting

Recreational Fishing Guide page on the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources website. A link to the website are provided at the end of this infosheet.



Vic Fishing Phone App Screenshot

Fishing in National Parks and State Parks

Under the National Parks Regulations 2013, Dja Dja Wurrung people can generally catch fish from the national parks within Dja Dja Wurrung Country. As with other exemptions for Traditional Owners in National Parks, you can only catch fish when following an Aboriginal Tradition.

Hunting

What can I hunt?

There are different rules that apply to hunting “**game**” species (such as some species of duck, deer, etc) and “**non-game**” species of native animals and birds. **Pest** animals (rabbits, foxes, and feral dogs, goats and pigs) can also be hunted in certain areas (see below).

You can now hunt **eastern grey kangaroos** and **common brushtail possums** on certain types of public land, up to the number shown per year in the table

below. This limit is for all Dja Dja Wurrung people together, so it’s important to check with the Corporation before you hunt and to report back to us the number you’ve hunted each month.

Species	Limit (Dja Dja Wurrung people as a whole)
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Eastern Grey Kangaroo	200 per year
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Common Brushtail Possum	50 per year
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You can also hunt the following **native birds** up to the number shown per year in the table below. They must be adult birds, and you must not take them from a nest or hollow. Again, the limits apply to all Dja Dja Wurrung together, so check with the Corporation before you hunt and report back to us the number you’ve hunted each month.

Species	Limit (Dja Dja Wurrung people as a whole)
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Little Corella	50 per year
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Crested Pigeon	100 per year
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Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	No Limit applies
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Long-billed Corella	No Limit applies
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Galah	No Limit applies
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What about game species?

You can now hunt game birds and certain deer without a Game Licence. You still need to follow all the usual rules, including:

- open and closed seasons
- bag limits
- approved methods of take

If you’re hunting game ducks, you still need to have passed the Waterfowl Identification Test. The test is free for Dja Dja Wurrung members. To book in for a Waterfowl Identification Test please ring the Manager Game Licensing on (03) 8392 2228. Bookings are available to groups or individuals. Members are encouraged to view the DuckWISE Educational DVD which can be provided by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, or can be viewed on-line at <http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise>.

See the Victorian Hunting Guide booklet or smartphone app for details of what game species can

Fishing and Hunting

be hunted and the rules that apply to all game hunters. A link to the websites are provided at the end of this infosheet.

Where can I hunt?

The headings below explain what you can hunt and when for each type of public land within the Dja Dja Wurrung agreement area. Refer to the map 'Where hunting can occur in Dja Dja Wurrung Country which shows where these areas are.

Note: Under the headings and in the map:

- "non-game wildlife" means the native species listed above (eastern grey kangaroos, common brushtail possums, little corellas and long-billed corellas, crested pigeons, sulfur-crested cockatoos, and galahs).
- "Pest animals" means rabbits, foxes, feral dogs, goats and pigs. For a list of game species, refer to the Victorian Hunting Guide.

State Forest, Forest Parks and other unoccupied Crown Land

Game species may be hunted during the open season.

Non-game wildlife and pest animals may be hunted at any time.

State Game Reserves

Game duck may be hunted during the open season. All other hunting is prohibited.

Sanctuaries

Only pest animals.

A list of pest animals can be found at the web link provided at the end of this infosheet.

Flora and Fauna Reserves and Nature Conservation Reserves

No hunting at any time.

National Parks, State Parks and Regional Parks

No hunting at any time.

Leased Crown land

Game (during the open season), non-game wildlife and pest animals may be hunted, but only with the permission of the lessee

Licensed Crown land

Game (during the open season), non-game wildlife and pest animals may be hunted, but only with the permission of the licensee

Private land

You need a game license for private land as this is not covered by the current Authorisation Orders. Game license conditions will apply to hunting on private land.

What other rules or restrictions apply to hunting?

Hunting under the Authorisation Order must be for "traditional purposes," so you can't sell the animals you take.

You must act in accordance with any made under the *Wildlife Act 1975* (these notices are advertised in a state-wide newspaper prior to being gazetted). Generally, these notices may temporarily close an area to hunting due to environmental conditions.

If you are hunting non-game wildlife, there are minimum standards that you must meet for the kinds of firearms and shotguns you can use:

Species	Minimum Calibre/Gauge	Minimum projectile weight/shot size
Kangaroo	.222 centre fire/ 12 gauge	50 grains/No.2 shot
Possum	.22 rimfire / 12 gauge	30 grains/No.2 shot
Small bird	.22 rimfire / 12 gauge	30 grains/No.9 shot

Anyone using a firearm for any kind of hunting still needs to hold a valid Firearms Licence and act in accordance with the *Firearms Act 1996*. For more information on firearms licenses, storage requirements

Fishing and Hunting

for firearms and ammunition and restrictions for the use of firearms please contact the Victoria Police: www.police.vic.gov.au.

Hunting at night (half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise) is prohibited for game. For other animals, the usual rules about hunting by spotlight and hunting from a vehicle still apply. That is, on public land, non-game wildlife and pests can only be hunted at night on foot. Spotlights can be used outside recognised deer habitat.

As usual, all wounded animals must be humanely killed as soon as you recover them. The *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* still applies, so read and follow the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting and the National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes.

National Parks and hunting

Under the National Parks Regulations 2013, the general ban on hunting doesn't apply to Traditional Owners who are acting in accordance with an "Aboriginal tradition." However, you still can't use firearms or weapons of any kind in a National Park unless you have specific permission, and the statewide restrictions on traps also still apply. So in practical terms, hunting for the above-mentioned species in National Parks is still not allowed.

Hunting game species outside of the normal rules

If Dja Dja Wurrung Members want to hunt or take game species outside of the normal rules (i.e. season dates, methods etc.) to support traditional and cultural purposes, please contact the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation who will work with the Game Management Authority to consider the proposal and ensure correct authorisations are provided.

More information and web links

Recreation Fishing Guide (book or mobile app)

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/recreational-fishing-guide>

Hunting Guide (book)

<http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/victorian-hunting-guide>

Hunting Guide (mobile app)

<http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/better-hunting/game-hunting-app>

Pest Animal List

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/pests-diseases-and-weeds/pest-animals/a-z-of-pest-animals>.

Game Management Authority and DuckWISE (educational DVD)

<http://www.gma.vic.gov.au>

<http://www.gma.vic.gov.au/education/duck-wise>

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals in Hunting

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-legislation/victorian-codes-of-practice-for-animal-welfare/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-animals-in-hunting-revision-no.-1>

Fishing and Hunting

National Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-Commercial Purposes

<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/8ae26c87-fb7c-4ddc-b5df-02039cf1483e/files/code-conduct-non-commercial.pdf>.

Statewide trap restrictions

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/humane-vertebrate-pest-control>

Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (2013)

<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/your+rights/native+title/dja+dja+wurrung+settlement+commences>

Authorisation Orders

<http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2014/GG2014S354.pdf>

Map of Settlement Area

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/maps>

Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation Contact Details

<http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au/contact-us>

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