



# Wombats SA

(Natural History Society of South Australia Inc)

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## Policy for the Use of Firearms on NHSSA/Wombats SA Reserves

Endorsed 21 September 2017

**This Policy does not override State and Federal Laws pertaining to the latest Firearms Act or National Parks and Wild Life Act or any other related Acts. The onus is on you the licence holder to know and abide by the above laws. Claiming to have not known about the law is not a defence.**

*Wildlife Research: Proof of ethics approval and associated research permits obtained through approved institutions are required before researchers carry out any research.*

### **FERAL ANIMALS CONTROL:**

**RESERVE CLOSURE DATES WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE WEBSITE CALENDAR.**

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide Rangers, researchers, volunteers and general members with information regarding the use of firearms on NHSSA/Wombats SA reserves to protect all visitors and volunteers.

### **Carrying firearms on NHSSA/Wombats SA reserves**

- 1) Must be approved by the Management Committee and will be issued by the Head Ranger,
- 2) Will only be issued to approved Rangers,
- 3) Is subject to a licence check and/or police check, and
- 4) As per the South Australian Government form, "Permission to Hunt on Private Land", is only valid for six months. Renewal is not automatic and you will have to reapply for permission.

### **Animals can be culled**

- 5) If you have a Basic Hunting Permit of South Australia, written permission from the Management Committee and only when safe to do so. You may only cull feral animals including:
  - a) Goats
  - b) Cats
  - c) Pigs
  - d) Deer
  - e) Rabbits
  - f) Red foxes
  - g) Wild dogs

- 6) The eradication of feral animals is confined to the NHSSA/Wombats SA reserves where you have been given written permission to do feral control by the Management Committee.

### **Animals that cannot be culled**

- 7) At no time are native animals to be shot on our reserves. This is exempt if you have the relevant permit from the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources. Remember it is against the law to shoot a native animal without a relevant permit. A hunting permit is NOT sufficient.
- 8) If you have accidentally injured a native animal (e.g. hit by car), or come across one that has been injured, you are expected to take reasonable steps to arrange for it to be rescued by calling an organisation such as Wombat Awareness Organisation on 0458 737 283 or veterinary services, providing accurate location details and make arrangements for them to access the reserve. Additionally, all injured wildlife must be documented – including date, description of condition, GPS and photograph if possible – and reported to the Head Ranger / Management Committee.

### **Reserve rules**

- 9) Each person must carry the appropriate licence for the firearm and NHSSA/Wombats SA permission to use a firearm card at all times as well as any native wildlife permits if they have them.
- 10) On organised feral animal culling days, signs must be placed on all entry points to indicate that a firearm is in use during the entire period the firearm/firearms are on the reserve/s.
- 11) The animal target must be stationary and no further than 100m.
- 12) Firearms must be unloaded at all times until they are to be used immediately and then unloaded immediately afterwards.
- 13) Firearms may be transported through the defined camp site, but must remain stored securely in vehicles at all times. Firearms must remain unloaded within 100m of all camping and picnic areas at all times.
- 14) Permission from the Management Committee is required before the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia - Conservation and Wild Life Management (SA) Inc or other state approved feral culling groups are permitted onto reserves.
  - a) For safety reasons the reserves are to be closed to all members, including rangers, visitors and researchers during this time. Key holders to be contacted. All other members to receive email notification. The website calendar should declare the reserves closed.

### **Avenue for complaint**

- 15) If you see someone "abusing" the privilege of carrying a firearm on the reserves you must:
  - a) Contact the Management Committee or Head Ranger and make a formal complaint.

- b) You have the right to feel safe in making a complaint, therefore, you can remain anonymous, but, you will require strong evidence.
  - c) You may need to make a formal complaint to police if the behaviour is illegal.
- 16) Remember, you have the right to make a complaint, however if you are found to be making false complaints you may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Complaints against you**

- 17) A complaint against you may not mean that your permission to use a firearm on NHSSA/Wombats SA Reserves is revoked, however this will depend on the seriousness of the complaint.
- 18) A letter will be sent to you detailing the complaint to which you are encouraged to respond detailing your version of events.
- 19) No decisions will be made until the Committee is satisfied that all evidence has been heard and considered.

#### **Penalties for not following rules**

- 20) Anyone found to be ignoring the above protocols, which are in place to protect all who visit the reserve, will be subject to disciplinary action as per the NHSSA/Wombats SA Constitution.

#### **Right to Appeal**

- 21) As per the NHSSA/Wombats SA Constitution you have the right to appeal any decision.

