



New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Incorporated

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New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association Commends Politicians.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association (NZDA) National President, Tim McCarthy, has commended politicians who voted today to pass the Game Animal Council Act.

The new Act finally sees the establishment of a statutory body to manage deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs. It is the culmination of a long process to revise the status of game animals that have hitherto been widely treated as pests despite their high recreational, cultural and commercial value, he said.

The Act was welcomed by NZDA which since 1937 had advocated for a management regime in which hunters had some say. Mr McCarthy said that after many years of frustration, there was now a way forward for a coordinated approach to the management of valued game animals. "With the establishment of a statutory body, recreational, commercial and conservation interests will now be able to find solutions to long-standing differences based on entrenched positions.

"The NZDA also looks forward to the development of agreed national standards for hunting activities and collaboration with conservation interests, the police, Federated Farmers, land owners and the game industry to address issues of mutual interest such as trespass, poaching, biodiversity conservation and the crossover between recreational and commercial game interests.

"The Game Animal Council will not deliver everything hunters had wanted but will be a step forward from where we have been for so many frustrating years."

However, Mr McCarthy said it was particularly pleasing to see a last-minute amendment to the Act providing for the establishment of new stricter regulations governing helicopter hunting.

He added that NZDA commended the successive governments and Ministers of Conservation who had overseen the process that preceded the announcement. "We acknowledge the key role of Mr Peter Dunne (United Future) who has consistently championed the new law via his confidence and supply agreement with successive governments."

"The roles of successive Ministers of Conservation in arriving at this decision indicate that conservation values will not be lost sight of when developing management strategies for game animals.

"NZDA strongly supports the GAC and looks forward to working with Council partners, government and other interests to promote safe and ethical hunting practices and proper management of the game animal resource."

Tim McCarthy
National President

The NZDA is New Zealand's largest and longest-established organisation of recreational hunters. With a membership of more than 10,000 throughout New Zealand it represents the interests of all recreational hunters and has long advocated for hunting as an integral part of our heritage and recreation.