



Department of  
Primary Industries

# STAY ON TARGET

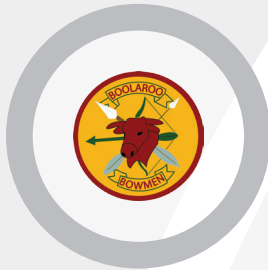
Be an ethical bowhunter



This booklet contains important information about being a safe, ethical and responsible bowhunter.  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting)



This program proudly supported by:



#### Disclaimer

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Hunting using archery equipment is an age old pastime which is as old as modern humans. For many cultures archery has been both a critical means of gathering food as well as a way to demonstrate skill and prowess through competition.

Today hunting using archery equipment or bowhunting remains a popular pastime and cultural activity encompassing recreation, food gathering and competition.

This booklet forms part of the **Stay on target – be an ethical bowhunter** program. This program has been developed jointly by the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Game Licensing Unit and NSW Police to inform and educate bowhunters about hunting regulations and community and industry standards for undertaking ethical bowhunting.

For more information on this program and regulated hunting in NSW go to the DPI's hunting website:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting)







## THE 4 CORNERSTONES OF BEING AN ETHICAL BOWHUNTER

Common to all bowhunting past and present is the principle: **to be a safe, ethical and successful bowhunter you must possess detailed knowledge of the game being hunted and be skilled in the use of archery equipment.**

Based on feedback provided by industry, government and community stakeholders, the following four cornerstones of being an ethical bowhunter have been developed:

1. Learn and practice bowhunting techniques and know the limitations of your equipment and your personal skill level.
2. Learn and follow the regulations around hunting in NSW.
3. Only hunt on lands where you have permission.
4. Do not target native wildlife – it is illegal.





# 1. LEARN AND PRACTICE BOWHUNTING TECHNIQUES, KNOW THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL SKILL LEVEL

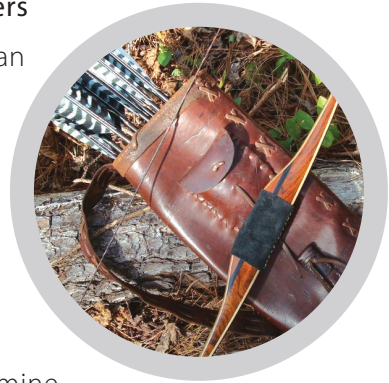


## **Bowhunting is a serious undertaking**

Bowhunting game and pest animals with archery equipment is a serious undertaking. Archery equipment has the potential to maim, injure and kill not only the animals you hunt but yourself and your hunting companions. When bowhunting all hunters should ensure that they only take shots that are safe and that provide the game they hunt with a quick death with minimal pain and suffering.

## **Archery equipment and reputable retailers**

Today's bowhunting archery equipment can range from high tech compound bows and carbon fibre arrows to home-made traditional longbows and wooden arrows. The most common types of bows include the compound, recurve and longbow.



Bows are like shoes, you can't just buy them off the shelf and expect them to fit and be used immediately. Before buying archery equipment you will need to determine what it will be used for and which type of bow will fit you best so your shots are as consistent and accurate as possible.

**Only purchase archery equipment from reputable retailers that take the time to fit a bow to its intended purpose and to your body shape and ability.**





## 1. LEARN AND PRACTICE BOWHUNTING TECHNIQUES, KNOW THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL SKILL LEVEL

### Bowhunting safety

Every bowhunter has a duty of care to ensure that where ever they shoot it is undertaken in the safest way possible.

The following points are the eight fundamentals of bowhunting safety which all bowhunters should practice whenever they pick up archery equipment.

1. Always point the bow and arrow in a safe direction.
2. Only nock an arrow when it's safe to shoot.
3. Identify your target beyond all doubt and know what's in front of it, immediately behind it, and beyond it.
4. Broadheads are razor sharp – only remove them from a quiver when you intend to shoot them or sharpen them.
5. Never dry-fire a bow (releasing the bowstring without a nocked arrow). It may cause serious damage to the bow and can injure the archer.
6. Do not drink alcohol or take drugs before or during bowhunting.
7. Immediately repair defects in equipment.
8. Learn basics of bushcraft and survival before venturing into the bush to bowhunt.

**Target arrows with blunt edges are for target shooting. Only use sharp broad heads or varmint points for small game when bowhunting.**



## 1. LEARN AND PRACTICE BOWHUNTING TECHNIQUES, KNOW THE LIMITATIONS OF YOUR EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL SKILL LEVEL



### Learn and practice bowhunting by joining a DPI Approved Hunting Organisation

The DPI Game Licensing Unit has a large number of reputable hunting organisations registered with it that are approved to conduct hunter education and training courses on its behalf. Many of these organisations are archery clubs that provide important information, training, mentoring and advice to both new and novice hunters and experienced archers.

Many clubs offer 3D competitions, range shoots and coaching as well as club hunting trips for their members. It is highly recommended that new and novice bowhunters join a DPI Approved Hunting Organisation to learn and practice the essential skills required to be an ethical bowhunter.







## 2. LEARN AND FOLLOW THE REGULATIONS AROUND HUNTING IN NSW

Its as easy as 2!

When bowhunting in NSW you will need to have a NSW Game Hunting Licence for two (2) scenarios:

1. When you are hunting deer species on private land (G-Licence or R-Licence required).
2. When hunting on any public land (State forests) declared and open for hunting (R-Licence required).

Illegal hunting on private land for species other than deer is also an offence under the Summary Offences Act with heavy penalties applying to those caught hunting or in possession of hunting equipment without permission.



## 2. LEARN AND FOLLOW THE REGULATIONS AROUND HUNTING IN NSW



### Why take the risk?

Taking the time before you hunt to get permission from the landowner or manager and getting a Game Hunting Licence (if required) is a small inconvenience when compared with the consequences of being caught illegally bowhunting.

The penalties for illegal bowhunting can include:

- » Expensive on-the-spot fines.
- » Seizure and forfeiture of hunting equipment including bowhunting equipment.
- » Seizure and forfeiture of motor vehicles.
- » Suspension or cancellation of Hunting Licences.
- » Court action.





### 3. ONLY HUNT ON LANDS YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO ENTER

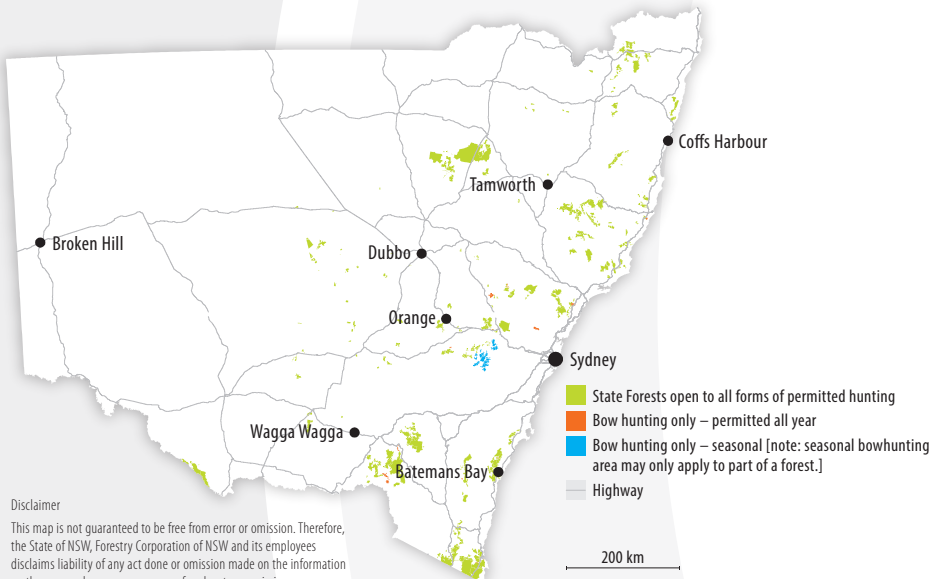
You can legally bowhunt on:

#### Private property

- » On private property with permission of the landowner or manager. A handy written permission log is available at the back of this booklet.

#### Some public lands

- » In NSW, there are 358 State forests declared for hunting. Not all are open so make sure you go to the DPI's hunting website to check which forests are currently available [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting). You must have a current R-Licence and written permission from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Game Licensing Unit. Bowhunting is allowed in all open forests and some forests are exclusively open to bowhunting only. The map below shows all forests declared for hunting in NSW and those open to bowhunting only.



#### Disclaimer

This map is not guaranteed to be free from error or omission. Therefore, the State of NSW, Forestry Corporation of NSW and its employees disclaims liability of any act done or omission made on the information on the map and any consequences of such acts or omissions.

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## 4. DO NOT TARGET NATIVE WILDLIFE – IT IS ILLEGAL



### What can I hunt with a bow?

When hunting on declared and open public land in NSW you will need to apply for and print off a written permission issued by the DPI. This written permission lists the game that can be targeted on each specific public land area. Hunting outside of the rules listed in your written permission is an offence and attracts heavy penalties and suspension or cancellation of a Game Hunting Licence.

When hunting introduced game on private land you must only target wild introduced game in a manner that inflicts no unnecessary pain or suffering. For example, introduced birds like starlings and Indian mynas are species where a humane and ethical outcome from harvesting them with a bow is unlikely. However small, medium and large game, when hunted by a skilled and ethical hunter can be well suited to hunting with bows. Examples include rabbits, hares, feral cats, foxes, feral goats, feral pigs and the six introduced deer species.

As with all bowhunting archers should ensure that they understand the limitations of both their equipment and themselves before hunting any species of wild game.





## 4. DO NOT TARGET NATIVE WILDLIFE – IT IS ILLEGAL

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### Why can't I bowhunt native animals?

In NSW native animals are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and can only be harvested under strict licensing conditions using firearms.

Native species like kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, possums, goannas and native birds like brush turkeys, ducks and emus are all protected and must not be hunted with bows.

These species are occasionally found with target arrows piercing their body, indicating that it is likely new or novice bowhunters have targeted them with archery equipment including target or blunt arrows.

This situation is unacceptable and should be discouraged. New and novice bowhunters should be encouraged to follow the four cornerstones of being an ethical bowhunter:

1. Learn and practice bowhunting techniques and know the limitations of your equipment and your personal skill level.
2. Learn and follow the regulations around hunting in NSW.
3. Only hunt on lands where you have permission.
4. Only target wild introduced game and do not target native wildlife – it is illegal.

## 5. REPORT ILLEGAL HUNTING TO THE DPI WHEN IT OCCURS



Licensed and responsible bowhunters can help stop illegal hunting by reporting by calling **1800 SHUT IT** as soon as it occurs using the **Shut the Gate on Illegal Hunting Report Form**.

### What to look out for:

- » Time, date and location (State forest, nearest road or cross road) of the incident.
- » Number of people involved (and a description of what they were wearing).
- » Number and type of vehicles involved including the vehicle/s description (any unique vehicle features e.g. 'dented left front door') and the registration / colour of vehicle(s).
- » A description of the incident including type of weapons used and any interactions with people or animals.

**Department of Primary Industries**

# SHUT THE GATE ON ILLEGAL HUNTING

NSW State forest neighbours, State forest users and the community can assist NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to stop illegal hunting.

- Report illegal hunting activity as soon as it is detected.
- Report illegal hunting using the Shut the Gate on Illegal Hunting Report Form on the reverse side of this page.

**What to look out for:**

- Any firearm use on NSW State forest at night**  
— licensed hunting using firearms is only permitted during daylight hours.
- The presence of spotlights at night in conjunction with firearms use**  
— illegal because of the spotlight effect.
- The harming of native animals in NSW State forests at any time**  
— it is illegal to harm native animals in NSW State forests.
- Hunters not wearing an item of high-vis orange clothing**  
— licensed hunters must wear an item of high-vis orange clothing when hunting in a NSW State forest.

Part of the Shut the Gate on Rural Crime initiative. **NSW Police Force**

**Department of Primary Industries**

# SHUT THE GATE ON ILLEGAL HUNTING

To report illegal hunting in a NSW State forest, call the Shut the Gate on Illegal Hunting report line on:

## 1800 SHUT IT (1800 7488 48)

**Please provide as much information as possible. All information will be treated confidentially.**

Date of incident: \_\_\_\_\_ State of incident: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of incident (State forest, nearest road or cross road): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people involved (and a description of what they were wearing): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vehicles involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vehicle's description: (include any unique vehicle features e.g. 'dented left front door') \_\_\_\_\_

Registration colour of vehicle(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Description of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to be contacted about this report? YES NO  
Your name and contact details (you may include an email address): \_\_\_\_\_

This report form should be emailed to the NSW DPI Game Licensing Unit at [game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or faxed to 02 6391 2993

**URGENT MATTERS – ALWAYS CALL 000**

Part of the Shut the Gate on Rural Crime initiative. **NSW Police Force**

### More information

For more information on ethical bowhunting contact the NSW DPI Game Licensing Unit on 02 6391 3750, [game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:game.licensing@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or visit the DPI website [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/hunting)



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## SW P II

### PERMISSION TO HUNT LOG

OWNER & PROPERTY ADDRESS	
OWNER SIGNATURE	DATE
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