



MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

13 November 2023

Hunters putting wild shot game on politicians' plates

Victoria's leading organisation representing recreational shooters and hunters is sponsoring a barbecue game meat lunch for MPs in the Victorian Parliament on Thursday, featuring venison, kangaroo and goat.

SSAA Victoria is putting on the lunch in support of Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party MP Jeff Bourman's proposal that would see wild deer culled on government control programs processed and the meat provided to Victoria's food charities.

SSAA Victoria's Communications Manager, Barry Howlett, said that the hunting community fully supports Mr Bourman's initiative. "Recreational hunters take great pride in processing and sharing the spoils of the hunt" Mr Howlett said, "it sits uneasily, not just with hunters, but with many in the community that the wild game resource killed in government control programs is, all too often, shot to waste".

Mr Bourman's proposal, to be debated in Victoria's Upper House on Wednesday, would see the Government fund and administer a trial that has been dubbed 'Hunters for the Hungry'.

SSAA Victoria has described Mr Bourman's proposal as a good start. "We would like to see this go even further" Mr Howlett said, "in New Zealand for example, recreational hunters are able to donate surplus venison, via licensed processors, into food charities. Over the past couple of years this program has seen around five tonnes of prime venison put on the plates of people who need a leg up".

SSAA Victoria have highlighted that, whilst control programs often 'shoot to waste', wild game is not a 'waste product'. "This is not about providing food charities with a waste product" Mr Howlett said, "it's about a better utilising a world class, nutritious game resource that is valued for fine dining, but, that all too often in this State, is the subject of wanton waste."

ENDS

Media Contact:
Barry Howlett, Communications Manager, SSAA Victoria
P 0427 367 094
E comms@ssaavic.com.au