



Select Committee on Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements

Additional questions

Directed to: Field & Game Australia

Received Date: 21 July 2023

1. Question:

State of preparedness to run additional training programs for Native Bird Hunting should that become a requirement of licensing.

Response:

Field & Game Australia is well positioned to provide suitable venues to deliver training in Victoria with 42 branches in Victoria that have approved shotgun ranges.

We would need to complete an audit to confirm which of these facilities are capable of supplying suitable indoor theoretical training areas.

We would need to understand exactly what training was proposed to really address its relevance and impact, plus our ability to provide such.

Field & Game Australia are currently working toward accomplishing Registered Training Organisation status, and are hopeful of obtaining this by late 2023/early 2024.

2. Question:

Current training offerings?

Response:

Field & Game Australia have in the past offered Shotgun Education Program - training (**referred to as SEP from here on in this document**).

We have mobile plant and all relevant equipment in a serviceable condition branded SEP, which could be re-purposed to be available across the state, although if running training in cooperation with branches, it would be likely all equipment would be available at each branch.

We also have branches and individuals offering a range of training courses for members on an "as needs" basis.

3. Question:

Availability of trainers and training locations?

Response:

As above, training locations are likely to be reasonably easy for FGA to arrange given our access to branch shotgun ranges. Availability of trainers is likely to be somewhat dependant on what qualifications or experience is expected. Recent audits of our members have informed that we do have willing members with up to Cert 4 training qualifications, although the requirement for that level of training qualification is being fiercely debated as it concerns firearms training.

Experience with firearms, and ability to safely train others in their use is not covered in a Cert 4 training course.

Originally there were around 22 Field & Game Australia members trained through to deliver the SEP course and we are confident that we can utilise several of those to deliver any training required.

We would select a number of branch ranges strategically around geographic requirements to gain the best coverage of licence holders. For instance close to Melbourne and surrounding areas we could potentially offer: Kilmore, Geelong, Yarra Valley, Sale or Bairnsdale.

In more rural and regional areas, we could potentially offer Bendigo, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Natimuk, Albury/Wodonga, Mildura

4. Question:

Indicative pricing?

Response:

It is very difficult for Field & Game Australia to estimate a cost on the delivery now, since we have not seen the content of the intended course requirements developed by SSAA Victoria. As an indicative estimate the SEP course was offered in the past at around \$240 per person from. Noteworthy in the apparent disappointing uptake in this voluntary course was that the cost was always sighted as the major barrier to people undertaking this training. FGA would have severe concerns if course requirements and cost were set even close to this high as it would present a major barrier to acceptance and engagement in the course.

The cost will be dictated by the use of our branch facilities, use of facilitators and consumables once the extent of any required training was known.