

HUNTERS INJECT \$1 BILLION INTO AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY

Australian Deer Association

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A ground-breaking study of hunting in Australia has found that hunters spend more than \$1 billion a year on the activity across the country.

The University of Queensland study, published by the CSIRO, surveyed more than 7200 hunters and found that every hunter on average spent almost \$4000 directly and indirectly on hunting.

Australian Deer Association president David Voss welcomed the study, saying that the economic impact of hunting in Australia was poorly understood by policy makers.

"The study identifies that unlike other countries in Europe and the US, Australia has limited data on the economic contribution of hunters.

"The ADA supports any effort to gain a better understanding of hunting impacts, whether they be economic or environmental."

Mr Voss said it was no surprise that such a massive proportion of surveyed hunters expressed a willingness to be involved in pest animal control programs.

"The fact that 99.3 per cent of respondents indicated a preparedness to help control pest animals demonstrates what resources are available for authorities to use if they are serious about pest animal control.

"Hunters are dedicated to obtaining positive environmental outcomes by targeting pest species, and I am pleased this study has quantified how overwhelmingly hunters embrace this responsibility.

"I welcome this study, not only because of its findings, but because it represents a genuine attempt to gather data and quantify the benefits hunters provide – something that has rarely happened in an Australian context."

Mr Voss said the study found hunters spent \$1835 per person per year directly on hunting, and a further \$2168 indirectly.

"The study states that the implications are that Australian recreational hunting community is large, active and willing to spend large amounts of money on hunting. Their activities need to be understood and participants engaged by wildlife managers so as to obtain the best outcomes for wildlife management in Australia.

"The ADA believes that hunters have a key role in assisting with wildlife management across Australia, and this study not only reinforces this, but demonstrates a potential economic value of allowing this to occur.

"This study shows hunters will and do spend money to hunt; and the value of this must not be underestimated, particularly in regional and rural areas.

"The ADA supports any efforts to ensure that hunting habits are systematically studied to assist in the formation of policies that not only sustain hunting as a recreational pursuit, but ensure it continues to provide economic and wildlife management benefits to the broader Australian community," Mr Voss said.



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