

GAC (HOSI) AMENDMENT BILL

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

This Bill is a significant opportunity for hunters to have their voices heard by the Environment Select Committee, and shape New Zealand's future legislative framework for the benefit of hunting and conservation.

The Game Animal Council Act 2013 is the first piece of legislation in New Zealand to recognise game animals as a valued introduced species and enable them to be sustainably managed while also achieving conservation outcomes.

This is achieved through the establishment of Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) in the

Game Animal Council Act. This approach to recognising and valuing special game animal herds, is very different to the current management approach, which focuses on control or eradication of game animals across all public conservation land.

The Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill aims to make the law clear, in that the Minister for Hunting and Fishing can establish a HOSI in a national park and therefore exempt the herd from extermination or eradication requirements in other pieces of legislation.

WHAT IS HOSI?

Herds of Special Interest is a legal tool that enables management of a high value game animal resource, for hunting and conservation outcomes.

- HOSI is only made possible under the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

The **purpose of HOSI** is to enable hunter-led management of valued introduced game animals and their habitats. To use monitoring and data to:

- Understand the impact of herds on the environment.
- Maximise benefits for hunters and conservation.
- Reduce negative ecological impacts.

NATIONAL PARKS AND GAME ANIMALS

Current laws aim to return national parks to a "natural state"—essentially the same as they were before people arrived in New Zealand or species were introduced. It focuses on exterminating game animals as far as possible.

However, after nearly 50 years, it's clear that:

- Eradication of introduced species from national parks is not practical or affordable.
- Hunters can and do play a key role in managing biodiversity and game animals, including in national parks.

Natural state means unmodified by human activity, introduced plants, or animals.



Game Animal Council
NEW ZEALAND

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED?

The Government is currently consulting on a change to the Game Animal Council Act through the 'Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill'.

The Bill aims to make the law clear that the Minister for Hunting and Fishing can establish a HOSI in a national park.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

If the Bill is passed it means highly valued game animal herds in national parks can be sustainably managed through HOSI, providing benefits to both hunting and conservation.

IS THIS JUST ABOUT THE WAPITI HOSI?

Not exactly. The current consultation is for a law change that makes it clear the Minister for Hunting and Fishing can establish a HOSI in a national park.

If the Bill passes, there will be a separate consultation on the Wapiti HOSI herd management plan.

TIMELINE

Government's Environment Select Committee is leading this process. Their role is to consult on the change (the Bill) and prepare a report on the feedback and any recommended changes.

The report is due by 30 October this year.

The Bill then follows this process:

Bill introduced	First reading	Select Committee	Second reading	Committee of Whole House	Third Reading	Royal Assent
12/05/2025	24/06/2025	Submissions due 24/07/2025				This is when the Bill becomes law.

BENEFITS OF GAME ANIMAL HUNTING

National parks are also managed to preserve public use, enjoyment and benefit. For many people, this is hunting of game animals.

Hunting of game animals supports public enjoyment of national parks and provides:

- Recreational wellbeing.
- Connection with nature.
- Wild food (meat).
- Conservation volunteerism.
- Economic benefits (local and tourism-related).

THE BIG PICTURE

Introduced game animals are part of New Zealand's landscape, including in national parks. Our view is that they can be managed to reduce environmental harm and increase their value to benefit people and nature.

Learn more at nzgac.org.nz/gac-hosi-amendment-bill

This Bill is a significant opportunity for hunters to have their voices heard by the Environment Select Committee, and shape New Zealand's future legislative framework for the benefit of hunting and conservation.

Help enable sustainable, hunter-led game animal management in New Zealand, including national parks. Have your voice heard. Submit on the Bill before 24 July.

Scan the QR code to access the submission page on Parliament's website

