

Illegal shooting



CDMC

Cardinia Deer Management
Coalition Incorporated

Illegal shooting is becoming increasingly prevalent with the increase in deer numbers in Victoria. It has occurred in our area. The CDMC are keen to halt it in its tracks and are actively working with Emerald and Pakenham police to address the issue.

What is illegal shooting?

The laws regarding hunting and controlling deer in Victoria are quite specific. Anyone acting outside these laws is shooting illegally.

Major areas of concern for us are:

- hunters shooting at deer from roadsides, often into private property
- the use of spotlights when hunting, especially from roadsides
- entering private property without permission
- shooting dangerously
- shooting inhumanely
- risking community safety due to poor knowledge and skills

How do I recognise illegal shooting?

- Shooting from roads (Except for police, this is always illegal.)
- Excessive use of spotlights
- Climbing over boundary fences. (Deer controllers invited to help by the landowner will almost always enter through the front gate.)
- Multiple shots being fired. (Except in unusual circumstances, deer controllers will normally fire once, maybe twice on a property per night.)
- Driving off rapidly when disturbed

What should I do if I suspect illegal shooting is occurring?

- Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 (If the activity is *life threatening* call **000**)
- Supply the police with the following details if possible (DON'T take risks):
 - Time and date of the incident
 - Location of incident, such as street address or GPS coordinates
 - Number of people involved and description (ie light-skinned male, large build, short brown hair, about 30 – 35 yrs old, wearing blue jeans, camouflage top and brown backpack, etc)
 - Vehicle description, including where possible model and make, colour, registration, distinguishing features
 - Description of incident
- CDMC would appreciate being informed as well, so we can alert members of our group to watch out for illegal activity in the area
- There is also an online form for reporting illegal hunting, which can be done anonymously if you wish. This can be found at:
<https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/enforcement/report-illegal-hunting-online>