

Tasmanian Game Council

Terms of Reference

January 2022



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1. Background

The Tasmanian Game Council (TGC) has been established to be an independent advisory body on game and browsing animal management and hunting in Tasmania.

These Terms of Reference define the roles, functions and operations of the TGC.

2. Roles and responsibilities of the TGC

2.1 Roles

The TGC is considered to be the peak body providing advice to the Minister and Tasmanian Government on game and browsing animal management, hunting and related matters including:

- Review of browsing wildlife management plans and projects
- Communication and collaboration strategies associated with managing browsing wildlife and hunting
- Peri-urban wildlife management
- Monitoring browsing wildlife and game species populations
- Research and development investment in browsing wildlife and game species management
- Advice on game seasons, take limits and sustainable management of browsing and game wildlife
- Commercial use of browsing wildlife and game species.
- Recreational use of game and browsing wildlife
- Economic impacts of game, browsing wildlife, hunting and shooting
- Welfare standards for wildlife management
- Relevant legislation and regulations.
- other issues as directed or requested by the Minister.

The Chair and Members of the TGC are appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

Members are expected to develop and sustain their personal networks in relation to their role as a member of the TGC such that they can bring a diversity of opinion and ideas to TGC discussions.

The TGC role is to provide advice. It does not direct operational activities or have any level of statutory accountability.

2.2 Responsibilities

The membership of the TGC will commit to:

- Attending all scheduled TGC meetings.

- Championing the TGC as the peak Ministerial advisory body on game and browsing animal management and hunting issues.
- Freely and respectfully sharing information and thoughts regarding game and browsing animal management with members of the TGC.
- Upholding the principles of good corporate governance including, but not limited to, declaring all perceived or actual conflicts of interest in relation to the business of the TGC, and at all-time operating in the best interests of the Council,
- Maintaining confidentiality and discretion in dealing with the business and outcomes of Council meetings.
- Upholding the media protocol, which states that the Minister is the spokesperson for the Tasmanian Game Council in recognition of its advisory role to Government. From time to time the Chair may be authorised to speak on behalf of the Minister.

3. TGC Membership

3.1 TGC Chair

An independent Chair will be appointed by the Minister and will be selected based on skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the business of the Council and demonstrated capability to lead the deliberations of the Council membership in a fair, respectful and accountable manner.

The Chair will ensure work of the TGC progresses between meetings in consultation with the Secretariat and will report to the Minister after each TGC meeting.

Appointment of the Chair is in addition to the eight appointed TGC members and will be for a three-year term.

The Chair may receive approval from the Minister, from time to time, to speak publicly on behalf of the TGC.

3.2 Membership

Up to nine members being one from each of the following skill and experience areas appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. Members are appointed for their relevant skills and experience rather than as representatives of specific stakeholder organisations.

- Program management and evaluation
- Stakeholder communication
- Impacts and management of wildlife in urban and or peri - urban areas
- Wildlife biology and scientific methods associated with wildlife management
- Commercial use of wildlife products
- Hunting or other recreational use of game and wildlife
- Management of an agricultural enterprise on which game and browsing wildlife impact
- Management of forestry or other commercial enterprise on which game and browsing wildlife impact
- Animal welfare standards in relation to wildlife management

Membership is subject to the Government's Women on Board's Policy and any other related policies that apply from time to time.

3.3 Appointment

Stakeholder groups and organisations will be encouraged to facilitate a diversity of their membership to nominate for membership of the TGC as it is important for the Minister to have the latitude to address matters of diversity and balance.

Membership of a constituted stakeholder group is not a prerequisite for appointment to the TGC.

Appointments will be for a period of up to three years. Members can be reappointed for consecutive terms. It is noted that succession of new members is seen as a way of refreshing the Council.

The Minister will call for Expressions of Interest for members.

Council members will be appointed for one, two or three years as determined by the Minister.

3.4 Termination of Appointment

A TGC Member may resign by giving written notification to the Minister.

Appointments may also be terminated by the Minister for a variety of reasons including unacceptable behaviour, physical or mental incapacity, failure to uphold the responsibilities associated with the role and conviction of an offence under the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*.

3.5 Role of DPIPWE Game Services Tasmania

Departmental Officers from Game Services Tasmania provide technical or policy input as requested by the Chairperson at TGC meetings but do not participate in or act to influence TGC deliberations or outcomes.

Game Services Tasmania staff will provide Secretariat support to the Council.

4. Procedural Matters

4.1 Ministerial Direction

The TGC will provide the Minister with an annual work plan for endorsement.

The Minister may direct the Council to consider any issues relevant to its role from time to time,

4.2 Meetings and Quorum

The TGC will meet up to four times per year on occasions determined by the agenda and urgency for requested advice.

A quorum will be a minimum of seven Members of the Council plus the independent Chairperson.

The procedure for the calling of meetings and conduct of business at meetings will be as determined by the TGC but based on the principles of good contemporary corporate governance led by the independent Chairperson.

It is desirable that decisions and outputs are determined by consensus but if necessary, they will be determined by majority vote with the Chairperson having the casting vote.

The Secretariat will keep outcome and action based minutes of TGC meetings. Reports to the Minister and meeting minutes will be drafted by the Secretariat and forwarded for Member approval prior to presentation by the Chair to the Minister.

Divergent views on an issue or a recommendation will be recorded together with the underlying reasons.

5. Remuneration of TGC Members

The independent Chairperson will receive sitting fees according to the Government Board and Committee Remuneration Framework administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Members will receive reimbursement for reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred in attending TGC meetings.