Big Den Ballot Information & FAQs

2027

Who is the ballot open to?

The Ballot is open to all hunters who hold the appropriate licences. See the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania website for additional information.

Hunting Parties

- Hunting parties may consist of up to four (4) hunters.
- Hunters can only be a member of one hunting party.
- Hunting parties must nominate a Hunting Party Leader to correspond with Sustainable Timber Tasmania, submit the Application Form and other required documents.

Entering the Ballot

The Hunting Party Leader must complete and submit a **Ballot Application Form**, **payment of entrance administration fee** and **required paperwork** (as stated below) for all hunting party members.

By submitting the application all hunters agree to the conditions.

Please send or deliver Ballot applications to:

Ballot Co-ordinator
Sustainable Timber Tasmania
15960 Midland Highway
Perth TAS 7300

Ballot applications must be received by 4.00pm on Friday 28 November 2025.

*Please note: the Party Leader is responsible for submitting required documents for **all** Party Members.*

Completed paperwork required:

1. Ballot Application Form stating Hunting Party Details and Hunting Preferences.
2. Conditions and Waiver & Indemnity Declaration for each Hunting Party Member. If the hunter is under the age of 18 additional information is required on the additional Conditions and Waiver & Indemnity Declaration form.
3. Application Checklist (one per Hunting Party).
4. Copy of current Firearms Licence for each Hunting Party Member.
5. Copy of current insurance membership (e.g., ADA, SSAA, F&G) for each Hunting Party Member.
6. Payment of the Administration fee $35.00 incl. GST (one per Hunting Party).

Harvest operations during the ballot period

Please note that harvest operations may occur in the Lake River area (outside of the Ballot area) during the Ballot and Antlerless deer hunting periods. Harvest machinery such as log trucks will be travelling through the Lake River Road section of the ballot area.

It is important to be aware and alert to log trucks and other harvesting machinery and operators. Please take all caution to avoid disturbance to machinery and operators.

Fees

A non-refundable entrance administration fee of $35.00 incl. GST (one per Hunting Party) is required.

Each successful hunter needs to pay an additional $25.00 incl. GST prior to receiving their Authority to Hunt and boom gate key(s).

Payments can be made in person at Sustainable Timber Tasmania's Perth Office,15960 Midland Highway or by calling (03) 6398 7000 during office hours.

How does the Ballot operate?

The Big Den Ballot authorises hunting access for the Adult Male Season and selected dates of the Antlerless Season.

Access for Antlerless deer hunting is permitted from the beginning of the Antlerless season (being the 15 March 2026) until the end of the Adult Male Season (being the 5 April 2026). Additional weekends are open to successful entrants for hunting Antlerless deer, as stated further in this document.

Hunters successfully issued an Authority to Hunt have access to hunt specified dates during the Antlerless Season.

The Adult Male Season (stag season) is divided into 11 periods, separating weekends from weekdays.

There will be a maximum of 44 hunters in any given ballot period, which may include up to four hunters per Hunting Party.

How and when is the Ballot drawn?

Ballot applications close at 4.00pm on Friday 28 November 2025.

The Ballot will be drawn on Wednesday 3 December 2025 at Sustainable Timber Tasmania's Perth Office.

Notification of successful applicants and securing your Ballot periods

Sustainable Timber Tasmania will contact successful Hunting Party Leaders via email (or phone if an email is not provided) at the earliest opportunity following the draw of the Ballot.

Party Leaders of successful hunting parties must pay a fee of $25.00 per each hunter in the hunting party to secure the ballot period(s).

Following successful payment, hunting parties will be sent Authority to Hunt documents and key(s) for their allocated period(s) in February 2026.

Mapping

A PDF map is available on the STT website.

Successful applicants will be issued with an additional electronic map. The e-map can be used in a free to download app 'Avenza Maps'. The e-map will be geo-referenced and works as a GPS in Avenza, with the capability to work off-line (out of phone/internet reception). For more information on Avenza please see the Avenza Maps website.

Boom Gates

All access boom gates are locked at all times.

Hunters successfully issued an Authority to Hunt will be issued key(s) to access the Lake River boom gate for their authorised hunting period(s) only.

Locks will be changed at the end and beginning of each hunting period at 12:00pm on Mondays and Fridays.

Camping

Camping on PTPZ land is strictly permitted at designated camping sites. Campsite locations will be marked on dedicated maps provided by STT to successful hunting parties.

Cutting and collection of fallen trees/wood is permitted for onsite campfire use only.

Fire Management

Campfires are not permitted on Total Fire Ban Days.

Campfires will be permitted on non-Total Fire Ban Days at designated campsites.

On Total Fire Ban Days all fires must be extinguished.

In the event of a wildfire all gates will be opened as soon as practically possible. Including Lake River Road (main gate), Connorville Den Road, Connorville Link Road (northern and southern end) and Woods Lake end.

Property Boundaries

Private property boundaries (other than Connorville Link Road) are marked with pink tape.

The ballot area boundary is displayed on the ballot map.

Antlerless Season

The Antlerless Season is not balloted.

Hunters successfully issued an Authority to Hunt in the Ballot have access to hunt specified dates during the Antlerless Season.

Hunters successfully issued an Authority to Hunt will be issued a key to access the Lake River boom gate for the specified dates during the Antlerless Season.

The Big Den Ballot will be open for hunting Antlerless deer on the following dates:

May 2026	June 2026
3:00pm Friday 1st to 7:00pm Sunday 3rd May	3:00pm Friday 5th to 7:00pm Sunday 7th June
3:00pm Friday 15th to 7pm Sunday 17th May	3:00pm Friday 19th to 7:00pm Sunday 21st June

Contact Sustainable Timber Tasmania

Any questions relating to the ballot can be directed to our Stakeholder Communications Team at Communications@sttas.com.au.

Conditions

- Hunters are not permitted to access unauthorised private land surrounding the ballot area.
- It is not permitted to discharge a firearm directly along or over any road, including Connorville Link Road.
- At least one item of visible blaze orange must be worn by every individual hunter, for example a hat or a vest.
- Camping is permitted on designated camp sites on PTPZ Land only.
- ATVs, motorbikes and e-vehicles and their use are not permitted.
- Campfires are not permitted on Total Fire Ban Days. On Total Fire Ban Days all fires must be extinguished.
- Falling of trees is not permitted.
- Removal of firewood is not permitted.
- Dogs are not permitted.
- Any hunter found (and/or convicted) of breaching these conditions will see their access rights to hunt on PTPZ Land revoked and will be in-eligible to enter future ballots.

Conditions to hunt on the Specified Portion of Connorville Estate

- Connorville Estate is permitting successful hunters authorised by STT to hunt on the neighbouring parcel of land, Property ID 2618138, Title Reference 229631/1. Located West of Connorville Link Road.
- Only hunters authorised by STT may enter the neighbouring Connorville Estate land, Property ID 2618138, Title Reference 229631/1.
- For security purposes a copy of the hunters' firearms licence needs to be provided to Connorville Estate; and if consent is not provided, then the individual will not be permitted entry into the ballot. Connorville Management will hold such details in accordance with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth).

Document Summary

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