



January 2015

We're cracking down on poachers

We've said we won't hesitate to prosecute people for firearms offences, seize their firearms and revoke licences.

Right now we are actively investigating five unlawful hunters and we have prosecuted more than 35 unlawful hunters in the last 18 months.

We have carried out three dedicated operations targeting unlawful hunters over the last six months and have more planned.

I can assure you we will also be out and about for periods during the roar.

During the other operations we surprised many hunters in areas they did not expect to see Police. It's pleasing to see that those people we've spoken to all support targeting the unlawful hunters - after all they are tarnishing the reputation of all hunters.

In the last year we have on four occasions seized over \$3000 worth of dog tracking gear. The older style tracking gear is illegal, however there is new legal dog tracking gear available on the market.

It is imperative that people going hunting seek permission from the land owner.

My message is that if you don't have permission don't even think about hunting.

People who haven't got connections to get permission to hunt on private land can seek permission via a permit from the Department of Conservation to hunt on its land.

We have also distributed signs reminding hunters of the consequences of poaching, which include substantial financial penalties. The response we've had from you to the initiative was overwhelmingly positive.

While we're doing what we can, we're also encouraging people in rural areas to install cameras if possible to assist with security. Many of you have been taking up that advice. Putting a camera in helps us secure convictions for unlawful hunting - and a range of other offending. We can

capture vehicle descriptions registration numbers and identity of hunters along with the time date and place of the incident.

I'm sure you'll appreciate what a challenge poachers are to Police. Please, if you see something suspicious get all the information you can and give us a call.

Sergeant Mike Porter

