

# Paul Toole MP

MEMBER FOR BATHURST ELECTORATE

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OBERON COUNCIL

31 OCT 2011

RECEIVED

27 October 2011

Ms Leanne Mash  
General Manager  
Oberon Council  
PO Box 84  
OBERON NSW 2787

Dear Ms Mash

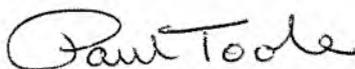
Please find enclosed a response I have received from the Minister for Primary Industries in relation to representations I made on Councils behalf concerning conservation hunting in State forests around Oberon.

I note that Forests NSW are aware of the influx of people into the Oberon plantations during mushroom season and have for many years used their knowledge to add the mushrooming areas onto forest maps. These maps are issued to hunters who hold restricted licences so they are aware that the popular mushrooming areas are hunting exclusion zones.

I note the Minister has asked the Game Council to make a presentation to the Council on how conservation hunting is managed and I would urge Council to consider this offer.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to give me or the office a call.

Yours faithfully



Paul Toole MP  
Member for Bathurst Electorate

*Always there  
for you*

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**The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Small Business



**RECEIVED**

*20/10/11*

IM11/9202

Mr Paul Toole MP  
Member for Bathurst  
PO Box 2237  
BATHURST NSW 2795

17 OCT 2011

Dear Mr Toole

*Paul,*

Thank you for your representation dated 23 June 2011 on behalf of Oberon Shire Council, regarding conservation hunting in State forests around Oberon.

Conservation hunting is a recreational activity that is highly regulated through a licensing system administered by the Game Council of NSW. Hunting on State forests is managed with the primary aim of making it as safe as possible while allowing multiple forest use. Forests NSW has conducted an extensive risk assessment review of hunting on State forest, the results of which were used to develop controls to ensure the safe interaction between hunters, other users and Forests NSW commercial activities.

Forests NSW acknowledges that mushroom gathering draws an unusual influx of people into a number of Oberon plantations in the mushrooming season. I am advised that Forests NSW staff, using their local knowledge, have for many years indicated known mushrooming areas on forest maps. These maps are issued to hunters who hold restricted licences so they are aware that the popular mushrooming areas are hunting exclusion zones.

I have asked that the Game Council make a presentation to Oberon Shire Council on how conservation hunting on State forests is managed. Should the Council wish to take up this offer please have them contact the Game Council on (02) 6360 5100.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the safe use of our State forests.

Yours sincerely

Katrina Hodgkinson MP  
Minister for Primary Industries