



3 December 2016

Guy Barnett, Minister for Resources

Big Den Ballot to Go Ahead

The Liberal Government will fund repair works on Lake River Road in the Northern Midlands to enable the 2017 Big Den Ballot to proceed.

The Big Den Ballot had been threatened by severe damage to the Lake River Road from winter floods.

The Government will provide up to \$83,000 in Community Service Obligation funding to Forestry Tasmania to repair:

A log culvert at Flash Charlies Creek which has been severely undermined and requires replacement estimated at \$40,000;

A second log culvert requiring replacement at an estimated cost of \$8,000; and

Twin pipes at Top Den Creek that were washed out and destroyed and require replacement at an estimated cost of \$35,000.

The Lake River Road provides the only access to the Big Den hunting area. The Big Den is managed under a game plan that provides for an annual Big Den Ballot to determine access for shooters.

Without the road repairs, the Big Den deer hunt would not be able to proceed next year - affecting approximately 160 game shooters.

Forestry Tasmania has no harvesting scheduled beyond the flood damaged areas in the next three years, so the repairs were not a commercial priority for the business.

However, the Government is keen to support traditional recreation pursuits and stepped in to provide the funding.

Hunters who are successful in the Big Den Ballot will be notified prior to Christmas. The ballot allocates access to the Big Den for the full deer season between the dates 24 February to 02 April 2017 and on an intermittent basis through to 2 July 2017 for the antlerless season.

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