

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MP
The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Friday October 9, 2020

Dear Ministers,

At its November 2019 conference, the Victorian Labor Party committed to review recreational native waterbird shooting in Victoria.

We call on the Andrews' Government to honor its commitment.

Here's why.

Cruelty. Numerous studies including by ballistics experts, show at least one in four of the hundreds of thousands of birds shot each year in Victoria will not be killed outright. Many will flap away to die a slow painful death elsewhere. Many others will live to suffer permanent injuries.

Sustainability. Populations of our native waterbirds – many species unique to our country – have been decimated. Allowing recreational native waterbird shooting is irresponsible if we care about biodiversity or leaving the next generation any hope of enjoying the birdlife we do today.

Biodiversity. Significant numbers of threatened and protected species are killed as collateral damage of Victoria's recreational duck shooting seasons including Australia's rarest waterfowl, the Freckled duck.

Safety. It is not possible to monitor the thousands of public waterways where recreational waterbird shooting is allowed, placing our wildlife and the public at risk. More people live around the waterways now than they did in the 1950's and many have expressed fears about their personal safety during duck shooting.

Economics. Studies show there would be an economic benefit in banning the activity in Victoria, as it has already been banned in other states. With rural communities crying out for a financial lifeline and 866,000 domestic tourists engaging in birdwatching last year, it makes sense to protect our natural assets not kill them off.

Democracy. Less than half of one percent of the population shoot ducks. Meanwhile professional polls continue to show that the majority of Victorians – city and country – want duck shooting to end.

Yours Faithfully,

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc *on behalf of and with the formal agreement of the following organisations:*

Australian Conservation Foundation
Animals Australia
Australian Education Union Victorian Branch
Australian Ethical Investment
Birdlife Australia
Bush Heritage Australia
Environment Victoria
Humane Society International
Victorian National Parks Association
Wildlife Victoria
United Firefighters Union of Australia Victorian Branch
Environment East Gippsland
Goulburn Valley Environment Group
Friends of Mallacoota
Coalition Against Duck Shooting Inc
Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club
Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
Hamilton Field Naturalists Club
Peninsula Field Naturalists Club
Portland Field Naturalists Club Inc
St Arnaud Field Naturalists Club Inc
Friends of the Earth
East Trentham Wildlife Shelter
Warringal Conservation Society
Friends of the Box Ironbark Forests (Mount Alexander Region)
Five Freedoms Animal Rescue
Lawyers for Animals Inc
Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group
Carriage in The Bush
Australian Wildlife Society

Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc

Nillumbik Environment and Sustainability

Wildlife Carer's Group

Choose Cruelty Free

Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education (AWARE)

Animal Active Australia

Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc

Advocating Wild

Ocean Legal Animal Rights Lawyers