

MEDIA RELEASE**17 March 2022****Day two of duck shooting reveals the brutal truth**

Wildlife Victoria, the state's wildlife emergency service, has revealed that in the first two days of duck hunting season, threatened species and non-game water birds have already been illegally shot while other ducks have been left to die a slow death amongst wetland reeds.

Wildlife Victoria CEO, Lisa Palma is leading the organisation's in-field triage facility where injured ducks are being brought in for assessment and care.

Ms Palma said that since the opening day of duck hunting season yesterday, a total of three threatened bird species (two Blue Winged Shovelers and one Hardhead) had been brought to the triage facility bearing lethal gunshot wounds.

Wildlife Victoria is expecting to shortly receive another Blue Winged Shoveler for x-ray.

It is illegal to shoot a threatened species.

This morning Wildlife Victoria's triage team received an additional 10 ducks that had been left to die slow and agonizing deaths after being shot. It is illegal to shoot a bird and leave the body behind.

"We are seeing the clear evidence of this terrible tragedy unfolding – and this is only the second day," Ms Palma said.

"Duck shooting is horrendous given the ever diminishing state of our water bird population and the fact that many of the shooters can't differentiate between one species over another."

"Surely the ducks that we have witnessed coming through Wildlife Victoria's triage facility are evidence enough to confirm the fact that duck hunting is indiscriminate, cruel and senseless."

"Duck shooting must end! We urge anyone who is concerned for the wellbeing of native ducks to contact their local Victorian Member of Parliament and let them know that this terrible event must never happen again," Ms Palma said.

Wildlife Victoria will hand over veterinary evidence including x-rays for the threatened bird species for further investigation by the authorities.

"Right now, Wildlife Victoria is seeing the horror of activity on one wetland area near Kerang. This is being repeated across the state where all water birds live and are now at risk," concluded Ms Palma.

The duck picture attached shows from top to bottom:

- Blue Winged Shoveler – threatened species
- Australasian Coot – not a game species
- Hardhead – threatened species



ENDS

For further information and enquiries contact:

Media phone 0447 193 121 or media@wildlifevictoria.org.au

About Wildlife Victoria

- Wildlife Victoria is a not-for-profit wildlife Emergency Response Service that has been operating for 35 years as an independent, not-for-profit organisation focused on the welfare of Australia's unique wildlife.
- In 2021, Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service received more than 100,000 requests for assistance and supported almost 90,000 sick, injured or orphaned native animals.
- Wildlife Victoria educates the community about wildlife, and helps the community manage wildlife incidents.
- Wildlife Victoria advocates for wildlife whenever their welfare is under threat or compromised.