



MEDIA RELEASE
Saturday 6 February

Call for Victorian Government to reverse its decision on duck shooting season

Wildlife Victoria, the State's wildlife emergency rescue service, has called for the Victorian Government to reverse its cruel decision to allow Duck Shooting Season to proceed this year.

Last year over 60,000 ducks were killed during Duck Shooting Season in Victoria.

CEO Lisa Palma, said the government's decision beggars belief, given that five out of eight 'game' species are in significant long-term decline.

A recent government survey of duck shooters indicated that 80 per cent of hunters failed a bird identification test.

"Many duck hunters simply don't know what they are shooting at. To people who can't easily identify one species from another, it makes no difference if a native bird is threatened or protected," said Ms Palma.

"Duck Shooting Season is incredibly cruel and senseless with one in every four birds wounded instead of being killed cleanly.

"This leaves wildlife veterinarians in the field to follow up by euthanising and treating critically injured native birds that get caught in the firing line."

Western Australia, NSW and Queensland have all outlawed duck shooting and Victoria should too.

More than a third of Victorians surveyed in a new poll strongly support a ban on duck shooting.

Wildlife Victoria encourages members of the public to add their voice in support of cancelling duck season, by signing the petition here:

<https://animaljusticepartyvictoria.good.do/cancelthecarnage/emailministers/?fbclid=IwAR2AqamrVVo30h0T8OM3IKR5wrUfP8-fab-vLnCxEqJcFsL7f4o8kozZJA>

Ms Palma concluded that Wildlife Victoria does not condone the killing and maiming of native waterbirds.

"Every year our Emergency Response Service receives calls from thousands of concerned people who care about sick, injured and orphaned native waterbirds. There is a community expectation that our native species are treated with respect and dignity and are not deliberately harmed," she said.

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For further information and enquiries contact:

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About Wildlife Victoria

- Wildlife Victoria is a not for profit wildlife Emergency Response Service that has been operating for more than 30 years as an independent, not-for-profit organisation focussed on the welfare of Australia's unique wildlife.
- Annually, Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service receives more than 88,000 requests for assistance and assists over 50,000 sick, injured or orphaned 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.