



Steve Dimopoulos MP

Minister for Environment
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

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Robert McDonald
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Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for your letter of 30 August 2023 to Ingrid Stitt MP, the former Minister for Environment, regarding the petition tabled by Georgie Purcell MP on the status of Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve as a State Game Reserve. As the current Minister for Environment, your correspondence has been forwarded to me for my consideration and response. I acknowledge that there has been a significant delay in responding to your letter and I apologise for this.

The Victorian Government is committed to safe, sustainable and responsible hunting, noting that changes taking effect in 2025 are improving the settings around compliance and regulation, environmental sustainability, education and training requirements for hunters, recognition of Traditional Owner's knowledge and practice of hunting and game management, and the scientific basis for setting the game duck hunting season.

I understand that Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve receives very little use by hunters and has not posed any management or safety concerns. However, the changes taking effect this year will ensure that duck hunting can continue to be an appropriate permitted recreational activity within the reserve, and it will continue to be managed for the purposes for which it is reserved. The *Wildlife Act 1975* provides the tools necessary to manage duck hunting in the context of other uses.

Thank you again for writing to the former Minister for Environment, and I trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Steve Dimopoulos MP
Member for Oakleigh
Minister for Environment

24 / 03 / 2025