



# Select Committee on Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements

**Hearing Date:** 29 June 2023

**Question[s] taken on notice**

**Directed to:** Australian Veterinary Association

**Received Date:** 19 July 2023

## 1. Bev McARTHUR Page no. 27

**Question asked to Dr Hugh Millar:**

You have got 6000 members in Australia. How many in Victoria?

**Response:**

The total number of AVA members in Victoria is currently 2167.

## 2. Bev McARTHUR Page no. 28

**Question asked to Dr Hugh Millar:**

**Bev McARTHUR:** What surveys or polling did you do of the membership before you came to this decision to oppose duck hunting?

**Hugh MILLAR:** The way the system works is in this case we had a policy. So the members are informed that the policy is up for review, and it is probably not unlike – well, it is not quite like this process, but nonetheless the members are invited to make their opinions, positions, known.

**Bev McARTHUR:** So is that review process completed?

**Hugh MILLAR:** Yes. So a policy, as I say, is developed through that process, and then it gets to a draft –

**Bev McARTHUR:** How many people participated?

**Hugh MILLAR:** There is a draft, and then the draft is put out there for members to review as well. I have no idea – I can get back to you – how many responded.

**Response:**

Dr Millar was asked how many people participated (in the policy review process).

AVA's Policy Advisory Council (PAC) is comprised of 27 cross-sectoral representatives (one from each of 19 Special Interest Groups, and one from each state and territory Division), plus 9 non-voting AVA Board members. Thirty-six members in total.

The process for ratification of the policy in question:

1. A new proposed draft of the Waterfowl Hunting Policy was reviewed by PAC at their meeting in May 2022, and voted through by 100% to go to member consultation. This initial vote by PAC followed internal consultation with each PAC member's respective groups.
2. The draft policy was then sent to all AVA members (in excess of 7,300 at the time) for feedback. There was no dissent, and one request for addition of text recognising cultural hunting, which was done.
3. Following this wider member consultation, and slight amendment, the draft then went back to the 27 PAC members in November 2022 to once again consult internally with their groups to inform a second and final vote ("Decision Point").
4. At Decision Point, 100% of PAC members voted for the draft to proceed to the AVA Board for ratification, based on feedback from their respective Special Interest Group or Division..(A vote in excess of 75% is needed to progress to ratification).
5. The draft Policy then went to the AVA Board for ratification, and was voted by 100% of the Board to be ratified.

The fact that this draft policy went to the full Policy Council twice and to member consultation three times, and received 100% vote, indicates strong member support for this policy.