

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramsar](#)
Subject: End duck hunting in Victoria
Date: Monday, 25 November 2019 9:59:34 AM

Dear Committee Members

Last weekend I went to Banyule Flats, an unassuming, heavily degraded reserve along the banks of the Yarra River in NE Melbourne. There I sat on the bank of the lake within 10 metres of two freckled ducks and two pink eared ducks, thrilled at the stunning beauty of these amazing ducks and how accepting they were of me to sit and watch them feeding and nesting.

It was a really special experience. These are two of the most stunning ducks we have in Australia. To think that a tiny percentage of Victorians are sanctioned to go and slaughter them for entertainment is utterly unbelievable. Numbers may recover from time to time but this is senseless slaughter more befitting an infantile society of centuries ago, not the learned culture we now live in.

Premier, you recently made the brilliant decision to protect our native forests for which I loudly applaud you. Please, please, now do the same thing to protect our wetlands and their precious inhabitants. Again, tourism, not slaughter is the answer and making the beauty of these ducks more widely known will draw the masses and we can rest easy knowing we are no longer entertaining ourselves slaughtering helpless animals.

I ask you, how is duck shooting actually still permitted in Vic?

It's worth noting that by supporting duck hunting, the Vic govt is more or less encouraging unrestricted gun violence. These shooters could hunt wherever they want, there aren't enough inspectors, and proper oversight is not going to happen. Illicit practices are rife, endangering fellow hunters, the wildlife, as well as the ecosystems of the wetlands.

You must put an end to the lawlessness and stop such violence.

Victoria is blessed with special and diverse wetlands, home to so many different plants, birds, fish and other species.

I'm pleased to see this inquiry underway and wanted to take the opportunity it presents to raise with the committee my strong opposition to duck hunting.

No inquiry into Victoria's wetlands can be complete without understanding that the decline of wetlands combined with the hunting season has brought our native duck populations to the brink.

I'm very upset and distressed that in 2019, duck hunting continues in Victoria when it is banned in WA, NSW and Queensland, and was never permitted in the ACT.

The shooting of native birds for fun is simply not okay. Up to one quarter of birds that are shot fly away wounded, and will go on to either suffer painful deaths or survive with enduring injuries including shotgun pellets embedded in their bodies.

Across Victoria, Australia and the world, there is growing evidence that our ecosystems are in real trouble and the water bird populations are particularly susceptible to drought, climate change and other threats. These factors make it even more inappropriate for recreational killing of water birds.

On top of this, each 'season' I am confronted by video evidence showing the cruel practices of some hunters and inadequate monitoring by compliance staff.

I hope this inquiry will seriously consider an end to duck hunting in Victoria, and will also provide recommendations for Government actions to restore and protect the wetland habitats all our water birds depend on.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Yours sincerely,
Adam Fry

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