

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: End duck hunting in Victoria
Date: Monday, 25 November 2019 5:37:52 PM

Dear Committee Members

in Victoria we are lucky to have many unique and diverse wetlands, home to so many different plants, birds, fish and other species.

I'm gratified to see this inquiry is finally underway as the atrocious "sport" of duck shooting has long been of great concern to many Victorians. This is an opportunity me and other like-minded people to raise with the committee our 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 had a serious negative affect on duck numbers.

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. Does the government really want Victoria to be seen as the backward, red neck state? Presumably not, and yet allowing this cruel, mindless practice to continue creates exactly that image.

The shooting of native birds for 'fun' is nothing short of appalling. 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. How can any civilised human being be comfortable with this fact and find it acceptable? 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. This is truly sickening.

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,
Anna Forehan

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