

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramсар](#)
Subject: End duck shooting in Victoria
Date: Tuesday, 26 November 2019 10:34:37 PM

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

First my own words - I have been involved in revegetating creeks and Wetlands around Melbourne since 1994. Before that, I wrote many essays deploring the hunting of ducks as a school student. That duck hunting still exists truly defies logic - especially as most people now recognise the urgent need protect our natural environment. With the collapse of bird populations around the world, and the extremely concerning low numbers of the short tailed shearwater arriving this year to our Victorian coastline, the continued practice of hunting native ducks and other wetland birds for sport is simply not acceptable. It also makes volunteers, like myself, who have spent YEARS revegetating waterways to SUPPORT WILDLIFE feel like a bunch of stupid mugs - when every year all of our efforts are undone by duck hunting. It really makes a person feel like giving up in disgust.

Therefore I strongly agree with and support the following submission to ban duck hunting in Victoria.

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 shooting.

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 shooting continues in Victoria when it has been 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 shooting 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,
Elissa Simmons

PS - very glad and thankful to hear that logging of our beautiful native forests will eventually cease. Let's continue in this same progressive way please.

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