

From: [REDACTED]
To: [ramsar](#)
Subject: End duck shooting in Victoria
Date: Sunday, 1 December 2019 3:40:20 PM

Dear Committee Members

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

At long last I am happy to know that this inquiry is finally happening after years of clear and majority feedback from the Victorian Public indicating that they want to see a state-wide ban on duck shooting in keeping with other Australian states.

We consider ourselves a progressive state yet in 2019, duck shooting continues in Victoria when it has been banned in WA, NSW and Queensland, and was never permitted in the ACT.

Indigenous groups have regularly come out in direct opposition to duck shooting, I urge you to confer with them First Nation leaders on this issue.

Further, from an ecosystem perspective, gun powder, pellets - the foot print of hunters- has a deep, irreversible and negative impact on the wetlands.

Not to mention the clear and obvious impacts hunting has had on native bird populations which are in decline. 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.

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.

Each 'season' I am confronted by video evidence showing the cruel practices of some hunters and inadequate monitoring by compliance staff.

Please end to duck shooting in Victoria, and 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,

Kath Dolheguy

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Please reply to Kath Dolheguy at [REDACTED]

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