

[REDACTED]
Fwd: Request for Meeting

To: beverley.mcarthur@parliament.vic.gov.au, Cc: info@regionalvictoriansotds.com, Bcc: [REDACTED]

[Details](#)

Dear Mrs McArthur,

Just a quick courtesy follow up note to the below email.

We read your letter in the Colac Herald November 6, about the fact beliefs should not be "*a restriction on other people's enjoyment and a threat to their livelihoods*".

This is in actual fact what the minority choice of recreation, the shooting of our native waterbirds, is to the majority of Victorians including in your western electorate.

We look forward to hopefully hearing back from your office soon regarding a time to meet with you to discuss.

Thank you in advance,

[REDACTED]
Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc.
www.regionalvictoriansOTDS.com

[REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Nov 13, 2019 at 1:57 PM
Subject: Request for Meeting
To: <beverley.mcarthur@parliament.vic.gov.au>

Dear Mrs McArthur, Team,

The issue of recreational shooting of our native waterbirds is no doubt a hotly contested one.

We are aware of your strong support for the activity.

By way of introduction, our group - now with over 4200 supporters since incorporating around 18 months ago - is made up of families and business around the waterways across Victoria where duck shooting takes place, including of course the Western Region.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to share with you some of our first hand experiences, as well as the results of an online survey we ran last year (in the absence of any government public consultation).

We respect we may not change your personal view and especially not your party's stance, however we believe it is important you see and hear from the wider contingent of your electorate.

We hope to hear back from you soon.

Thank you in advance.

[REDACTED]
Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc.
www.regionalvictoriansOTDS.com

26 March 2021 at 6:16 pm

Follow up to previous meeting requests

To: Beverley.McArthur@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mrs McArthur,

Over the course of the last 18 months our organisation has written to request an audience with you to discuss our organisation, the reasons why we established and to share with you the adverse impacts of native bird shooting on regional families and businesses - many within your electorate.

We have never received a response from either yourself or your office.

I understand you raised one or two questions to our spokesperson about our organisation at the Parliamentary Inquiry recently. Hence I would like to again offer an opportunity to meet where we would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

In the interim, we hope you may be able to share with us the answers to the below:

- What is the percentage of constituents within your electorate who shoot birds recreationally compared to those who are opposed?
- What percentage (or how many) of your constituents live around shooting areas - say within 200 meters?
- When was the last risk assessment carried out regarding the risk of shooting to family homes and members of the public within proximity?
- When was the last cost-benefit analysis carried out regarding duck shooting in rural areas? (the estimate of hunters spend is - as it clearly stipulates- not a cost benefit analysis, but simply a survey of shooters as to what they think their spend is. The data is not verified and It does not account for any costs to community.)
- What is the value of lost tourism as a result of shooting within rural areas? (as per numerous independent economists reports; shooting obviously deters holiday makers)
- What is the cost of compliance monitoring / law enforcement of duck shooting in your electorate?
- What is the value of lost productivity as a result of duck shooting when people cannot work from home near it or sleep when they are shift workers?

We understand you are a keen member of Field and Game Australia, however would like to believe your duties as Member of Parliament concerned for all - at least the majority of - your constituents as opposed to personal interests, would of course be forefront in your thinking.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing back.

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting inc.

9 February 2020 at 10:17 am

Request for meeting re impacts of duck shooting on rural communities.

To: melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Bath,

We (many your constituents) would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss other sides of the issue of duck shooting.

We were concerned to read some of your comments in the Gippsland Express last week. It appears you may have been misinformed, or informed of only one component regarding the matter.

Regarding the regional economy, we wholeheartedly agree that rural communities are crying out for relief at the moment.

However duck shooting is a negative impact. You may not be aware, based on a survey of shooters self professed to hold bias back in 2013, duck shooting only contributed \$99 million to the entire state, \$2.4 million and 16 total jobs to East Gippsland. (See attached). This is being generous as it includes direct and flow on figures.

This survey failed to account for the adverse impacts of duck shooting to those who work from home near it or businesses whose tourist visitors drop off because of it - in fact anyone other than shooters.

Conversely, nature based tourism - which is hampered by duck shooting - is bringing significant benefit to other communities.

Examples include Winton Wetlands where they shoot with cameras, which now sees over 60,000 visitors a year to one little area near Benalla (that's more than twice the total number of duck shooters there are across the whole state). Phillip Island Nature Parks contributes \$498 million and 2100 jobs to Victoria, \$120 million and 800 jobs just to the local area.(2014 Media Release).

We are not opposed to shooting sports at all and many of our members have guns for genuine farm reasons. However we are absolutely opposed to the un-necessary killing and maiming of our native waterbirds (at least one in four birds will not be killed outright according to ballistics experts - but flap away to die slow painful deaths), many species unique to our country, which adversely impacts our rural communities.

Duck shooting is far from popular. Less than half of one percent of the population shoot ducks - a number that is declining (see graph). Conversely, professional polls continue to show the majority of Victorians want it banned.

Regarding East Gippsland, only 2.48% of voters are duck shooters - and this is the second highest electorates - no electorate has over 3% of voters as duck shooters. (GMA license statistics extrapolated per postcode to electorates).

More people are moving to rural areas near waterways and more people are interested in nature based activities like bushwalking (in the Top 20 - shooting is not) and birdwatching - a \$41 billion dollar industry in the US alone. Both these pastimes, amongst others, are adversely impacted by the shooting of animals nearby.

Whilst we respect you must tow the National Party line, we hope you will check the facts and evidence behind the stand you are taking.

We hope you will be the voice of the majority of your electorate.

We hope to be able to meet with you soon when we can show you more detail.

Thank you in advance

Regional Victorians OTDS Inc.
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