

From: [REDACTED]
To: ramsar
Subject: End duck shooting in Victoria
Date: Wednesday, 27 November 2019 11:45:53 AM

Dear Committee Members,

This so-called sporting practice has long been misaligned with the values and ethics of the Victorian community. Any right to kill animals should be exercised with the greatest of respect and compassion - if at all - which a pleasure sport such as this completely offends. I'm sure none of you participate in this sport personally, and for the sake of a indulged minority it is now time for you to please exercise your influence, responsibility and obligation to reflect society's overwhelming disdain for this unnecessary cruelty through appropriate policy.

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,
Kellie Stoopman

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