



## **Wildlife Victoria responds to potential ban on ducking hunting in Victoria**

Wildlife Victoria, the state's wildlife Emergency Response Service, is pleased to hear that the Victorian Government is considering ending the cruel practice of duck shooting in Victoria.

With nine out of ten Victorians supporting a ban, we are very hopeful that Premier Andrews will listen to the Victorian community and call an end to duck hunting before a 2023 season is announced.

By permanently ending duck hunting in 2023, Victoria would become the fourth Australian state to do so, joining Western Australia, New South Wales, and Queensland; who banned the practice in 1990, 1995, and 2005 respectively.

With the 2022 Eastern Australian Waterbird Aerial Survey finding six out of eight native duck species in significant long-term decline, and less than 0.5% of Victorians participating in duck hunting, it is clear why the Victorian Government is now considering ending duck shooting.

In 2022 alone, 262,567 native ducks were legally shot and bagged by shooters. Not reflected in this figure are the many more ducks left on the water to die slowly from their wounds.

An end to duck hunting in Victoria would be in line with aspects of the Government's *Plan for Victoria's new animal care and protection laws* which describe animals as sentient with 'the capacity to feel, perceive their environment, and to have positive and negative experiences like pleasure and pain'.

Each year, Wildlife Victoria's Travelling Vet Service is in field at hunting sites to treat waterbirds impacted by hunters' activities. Not only is there considerable resource and financial pressures placed upon the organisation, there is an immense emotional toll.

"Each year we see birds, including threatened species, come through the Wildlife Victoria veterinary triage tent and while our team do everything they can to help each individual animal, often the most humane option is euthanasia." **Lisa Palma, Wildlife Victoria CEO.** "Also, almost all deceased birds x-rayed by our veterinarians, after being left in field, are found to have shotgun pellets or shotgun trauma evident".

A ban to duck hunting would allow Wildlife Victoria to focus on delivering its 24-hour, 7 day a week Emergency Response Service. Receiving over 110,000 calls each year, and with a 15% year-on-year increase in demand, the Victorian community and our native wildlife need us more than ever. We are very hopeful the Andrews Government will be on the right side of history and end duck hunting in 2023.

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Wildlife Victoria's CEO Lisa Palma is available for comment and interviews. Please contact Wildlife Victoria's media team on 0447 193 121 or email [media@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au](mailto:media@wildlifelifevictoria.org.au)