Tarrangower Times April 14, 2022

Letter to the Editor

Time to hold MPs to account

Dear Mr. Quilty,

We have yet again received an unwanted flyer from you in our letterbox.

Let me explain why it is unwanted.

We understand you are a member personally of Sporting Shooters (who pushed for camping on licensed crown land, which no farmer wants) and of National Shooting Council. However, we understand an MP takes an oath to represent his/her constituents and to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Whilst we support target shooting, no electorate has more than 2.48% of their voters as duck shooters. Most electorates have between 0 and 0.5%. There's a reason.

Meanwhile, one in four Victorians now live in regional areas. Peace and safety is important to them.

You continue to promote the interests of your hunting lobby mates, who represent less than one per cent of Victorians, to the detriment of the majority of the rest of us. You are speaking against the wishes of over 6.5 million Victorians who do not agree with the recreational shooting of native waterbirds. Many regional folks are outright seriously disadvantaged by it. You will be familiar with the ongoing professional polls, which show most Victorians want duck shooting banned, as it has been in other states, with the strongest support for a ban coming from regional Victoria (UComms 2021).

Can you advise when the last health and safety risk assessments took place at the thousands of Victorian public lakes, creeks, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands and waterways where unmonitored bird shooting is allowed? Can you say how many of your own constituents live within 200 meters of unmonitored shooting, which goes for months from before sunrise, upsetting children, stock and pets and making it impossible to work from home? Can you tell us what is the cost to taxpayers of having to try and monitor this uncontrollable activity? Or the cost in lost tourism? Or the results of any real cost-benefit analysis? Are you aware of the eye-watering sums of taxpayer money being siphoned to hunting/shooting clubs?

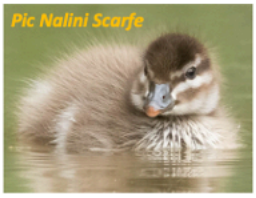
Are you aware of what the statistics say about the value of keeping our wildlife alive? This is a tremendous unique asset we have in regional Victoria.

Our organisation which incorporated in 2018, now has over 5,700 supporters from around the state, many in your region. We would be happy to have a meeting with you to further discuss.

In the interim, if you are appealing for our votes, please fight for Northern Victoria, not just the hunting lobby.

Thank you

Tim Haddad



Pic Nalini Scarfe