

# Poll found 68 per cent against shoot **BID TO END DUCK HUNT**

**HARRISON TIPPET**

DUCK hunting season will be cancelled in Victoria if the RSPCA has its way, as the animal welfare group renews a push for the 2022 season to be binned.

And the group appears to have strong support for the move, claiming research conducted in the past three months found about 70 per cent of Victorians agreed duck hunting should be banned.

RSPCA Victoria chief executive Liz Walker said there was clear scientific evidence backing the group's call for the state government to cancel the 2022 duck hunting season.

"Victorians want to see decisions made on science and evidence that will ultimately stop the unnecessary suffering of Victoria's ducks," Dr Walker said.

"Using a wounding rate of 26 per cent and comparing this

**■ VICTORIANS WANT TO SEE DECISIONS MADE ON SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE THAT WILL ULTIMATELY STOP THE UNNECESSARY SUFFERING OF DUCKS**

**DR LIZ WALKER**

to the reported total harvest figure of 238,666 from the 2019 season (as the 2020 season was impacted by Covid-19), this would mean over 62,000 ducks were wounded and not killed outright in the 2019 season.

"The 2021 aerial survey of waterbirds in eastern Australia reports that game species abundances were well below long-term averages with six out of eight native game species showing significant long-term declines.

"Total waterbird abundance is the third lowest in 39 years.

"In particular, grey teal, Australasian shoveler and

Australian wood duck numbers have been declining for many years. The Pacific black duck, chestnut teal, hardhead and pink-eared duck abundances have declined since 2020."

RSPCA Victoria claimed recently completed research found 68 per cent of Victorians agreed duck hunting should be banned, with 54 per cent of those interested in visiting regional Victoria revealing they would prefer not to visit locations where there was duck hunting.

A recent submission to the Game Management Authority by the RSPCA strongly recommended cancelling duck hunting season due to the inevitable suffering of native ducks, long-term declines in game bird species abundance, climate outlook data and predicted rainfall unlikely to relieve long-term deficits and community concern for the welfare of native ducks.