

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No: 1995

Asked by: Mr Clifford Hayes ()

Questions:

To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to duck shooting:

- (1) Noting that the Game Management Authority (GMA), in arriving at decisions concerning duck shooting, is required to assess all social, economic and environmental costs and benefits considering externalities, has the GMA considered information other than a survey of 900 duck shooters in 2013.
- (2) How were complaints concerning duck shooting from rural landowners, requests for exclusion zones from landowners and Councils, and the impact of duck shooting on local businesses, such as tourism, considered.
- (3) Has the GMA considered the decline in the number of duck shooters in its assessment of the expenditure caused by duck shooting.
- (4) Is the Minister aware that Victoria's Index of Wetland Condition is now the lowest recorded since surveys commenced 37 years ago, noting that in the previous breeding season there was minimal waterbird breeding, with swans and ibis accounting for 97 per cent of it.
- (5) Will the Minister consider the impact on rural families of being woken by gunfire before dawn, and consider an 8.00 a.m. start time for all days when duck shooting is permitted.

Reply:

The Victorian duck season is prescribed under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 to occur every year between the third Saturday in March and the second Monday in June. The regulations also prescribe daily bag limits and hunting methods. The Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change have the power to jointly make changes to ensure that hunting remains sustainable, responsible, and safe. Any changes, such as the modifications gazetted for this year, are based on the advice of the Game Management Authority (GMA).

The process and considerations the GMA undertakes to inform its advice to government about arrangements for duck hunting are clearly detailed on its website at: www.gma.vic.gov.au/hunting/duck/duck-season-considerations.



Jaclyn Symes MP
Minister for Agriculture