

ATTACHMENT C – Home and business under siege.

I am one of the forgotten victims of duck shooting.

My land has been vandalized. I have been shot at and abused. I've had to stand by and watch groups of army clad men with guns, speed up and down the waterway in boats, shooting only meters from my house.

Shooters have hidden in tree stumps and bushes meters from my house and shot bullets towards me. I have cried seeing many baby ducklings without mothers left to fend for themselves. The poor things are only golf ball size. Their mothers shot dead in front of them, while some are injured, taking days to die. Feathers, guts, body parts are left along the banks of [the wetland].

Human faeces have littered my property with toilet paper strewn on top and alongside.

Trees have been cut down. Bullet cartridges left on the land and in the water.

I have been advised by the police to stay inside my house during the siege. But I refuse to hide in my house while duck shooters wreak havoc in my immediate surrounds and on my private property.

I have witnessed the hundreds of native water birds that lived here, fly confused amidst thousands shot. They are all but gone now.

I am a land owner and I make my living from this land as do other farmers along the banks of [this wetland].

I have witnessed blatant disregard and disrespect for this Cultural site. My land is a Wollithica Burial ground and I the keeper.

I have witnessed the blatant disregard for the law. Shooting on private property and carrying firearms on private property without permission.

I have been bullied, intimidated, forced to retaliate and put into a corner with no other means of justice.

Farmers and landowners such as myself are tired of the strong gun lobby groups that exercise their power along the peaceful waterways.

All farmers know about guns, we use them in our daily living to rid our lands of pest animal species like rabbits, foxes and feral cats and to put down sick and dying farm stock and animals. We know about guns.

I have witnessed the total waste of taxpayers money to monitor and negotiate situations with duck shooters and landowners.

The mass carnage and killing orgy of native bird species is abominable and repulsive and does not sit congruently with the landowner's responsibility of caring for country and sustainable farm practise. _

Our Lagoon like many wetlands, are living museums of nature and history. They are being desecrated by a bunch of red necks that think that they can come from the city and blast away all life and nature, shit on the land and then leave to go home on Sunday afternoon.

I have complained to the authorities and to GMA to no avail.

For our children and our grand children, policy makers must listen.

Nanna Against Duck Shooting

Recreational native duck shooting is allowed at thousands of public waterways around Victoria.

There has never been any risk assessment nor consultation with nearby residents.

More of what regional Victorians have to say about being victims of Victoria's annual recreational native duck shoot can be seen at <https://www.regionalvictoriansotds.com/rural-voices>