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## Revealing New Data - Regions Counting on New Premier

### **Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc**

#### **2023 Illegal Behaviour Report**

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc. highlight a damning statistic on page 10 of the Game Management Authority (GMA) season report.

It notes that 11 of their survey respondents admitted to exceeding bag limits, which represents 1.2% of active duck shooters.

The report stops short of articulating that 1.2% of active duck shooters equates to 170 duck shooters exceeding the legal bag limit. This alarming figure is without accounting for the number who did not admit doing so, or the number who committed other offences such as shooting out of hours, shooting protected species, not retrieving wounded birds etc.

How many prosecutions have taken place?  
Very few it seems.

#### **2023 Report Proves Bird Hunting NOT Sustainable**

With native bird hunting in Victoria under threat, the Game Management Authority released its annual bird shooting season data quickly this year. Normally, stakeholders are kept in the dark about what happened during the autumn shoot until the following year, on the brink of the next shoot.

In its haste to publish, the "independent" regulator seemingly failed to recognise that the reported kill numbers overshot its own sustainability target by a country mile. In 2021, GMA suggested a 10% cull is sustainable.

GMA's (taxpayer funded) helicopter duck count produces two duck population estimates depending on maths techniques used. The regulator chooses the larger estimate. The two relevant counts for 2023 were 2.41 million and 1.9 million. So a 10% cull would be 241,000 or 190,000 respectively.

The subsequent "harvest" of 320,000 ducks this year was hence an overshoot of 33% at best, more likely 68% over the threshold of the regulator's definition of "sustainable".

Worse, this is in a year when Professor Kingsford's annual waterbird survey showed game duck abundance was down to the third lowest in 40 years.