

# Residents duck for cover after hunting app bungle

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A MAPPING bungle has led to Victorian duck hunters shooting near private properties, sparking concerns about the risk to residents.

The duck hunting section of the Mapshare app used by hunters included a layer showing marsh areas, leading to confusion over which areas were open to hunters.

Eco-tourism operator Mae Adams told the Herald Sun she was alarmed when she heard the sound of gunfire near her property at Venus Bay.

Ms Adams spent three weeks trying to get a response when she queried the Game Management Authority and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

“I was worried about the safety of my guests and I was

worried about the native wildlife because a lot of people come here to enjoy the wildlife,” Ms Adams said.

Half of the marsh in Ms Adams’ district is private property. Some of the land is also under a Trust for Nature conservation covenant.

“Shooters have misinterpreted (them) as being areas where they can hunt,” she said.

“Our house can’t be seen

from the wetlands so it was quite stressful when there were duck hunters nearby.”

The maps bungle has also been identified in Gunbower and in Barmah in the north of the state.

A spokesman for Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting said the confusion and the proximity of shooting to residential areas was alarming and dangerous.

A DELWP spokesman said shooters in doubt on the legality of hunting in any area should not hunt there.

“It’s the responsibility of hunters to comply with the laws,” he said. “We have updated Mapshare to disconnect the

‘wetlands’ layer from the hunting view, ensuring it’s easier and clearer to use for hunters in identifying public land boundaries.”