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Joint call for duck hunt ban

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Four major wildlife conservation groups, including the RSPCA, have issued a joint statement calling for a ban on duck shooting in Victoria, saying that five of eight bird species numbers were in decline.

The call follows a government-led parliamentary inquiry which in August recommended a full ban on the practice of recreational native bird hunting as early as next year.

The statement – by RSPCA Victoria, Animals Australia, Wildlife Victoria and BirdLife Australia – said the 2023 Eastern Australian Waterbird Survey contained data that provided “further, critical evidence” to support a ban.

RSPCA Victoria chief Liz Walker said the latest survey highlighted the sustainability concerns could not be ignored. “There is now so much evidence to support a ban on duck hunting in Victoria, and we are calling on the government to finally put one in place,” she said.

The statement adds more pressure on the state government to adopt the recommendations and ban duck hunting to bring Victoria in line with New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Animals Australia chief executive Glenys Oogjes said most Victorians supported an end to shooting native birds.

Four building unions have previously criticised any proposed ban, saying they would “defend their rights to outdoor recreation”.