

**Submission  
No 790**

## **INQUIRY INTO VICTORIA'S RECREATIONAL NATIVE BIRD HUNTING ARRANGEMENTS**

**Organisation:** Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc.

**Date Received:** 18 April 2023



Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc.  
PO Box 1205 Morwell Victoria 3840



## **Submission to the Select Committee on Victoria's Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements**

16 April 2023

Dear Committee Members,

The Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club was formed in 1960 with the aims of fostering an enjoyment of the world of nature and working for the preservation of the Latrobe region's flora and fauna and of the natural habitats that support them.

Our motto is to "Protect and Enjoy" and we therefore would like to see a ban on duck hunting in Victoria which is in line with most other states in Australia.

The six species of duck that are currently on the list for hunting do not live, breed, nest in isolation. Water birds usually congregate in populations with various other species which will be detrimentally affected by the disruption of numerous hunters in their wetland and river habitats. Despite being protected, threatened species are killed during the duck hunting season and swans are known to abandon their nests.<sup>1</sup>

Those birds that are killed and wounded will inevitably suffer as a result of the shooting. As many as one third of ducks are wounded and not retrieved and this amount of suffering is unacceptable.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/911116/Coalition-Against-Duck-Shooting-submission-2023-duck-season.pdf](https://www.gma.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/911116/Coalition-Against-Duck-Shooting-submission-2023-duck-season.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/how-many-ducks-and-quail-are-wounded-due-to-recreational-hunting/>

We believe that economically birdwatching and other recreational activities which are year round activities bring many more families to rural areas than a season of duck shooting. Estimates show that only 11,549 hunters hunted in 2022,<sup>3</sup> whereas total domestic visitors to/within regional Victoria were 53.9 million.<sup>4</sup>

In 1990 the Western Australian Premier Carmen Lawrence banned duck hunting in that state saying that: “Our community has reached a stage of enlightenment where it can no longer accept the institutionalised killing of native birds for recreation.”

We call on the committee to follow her lead and also ban this barbaric practice for once and for all in the State of Victoria.

Yours Sincerely,

██████████ Vice President,  
██████████, Conservation Coordinator  
On behalf of Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club

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<sup>3</sup> <https://rspcavic.org/not-all-its-quacked-up-to-be-the-truth-about-duck-hunting/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/tourism-industry-resources/tourism-industry-research/regional-visitation>