

Common Position Statement of Conservation, Animal Welfare, and Political Groups calling for a ban in Victoria on recreational shooting of native waterbirds

DATED: 4 December 2005

The endorsing organisations condemn the annual recreational shooting of native waterbirds on Victoria's wetlands and call on the Victorian State Government to immediately ban the activity.

RESOLUTION:

That the Victorian State Government immediately bans the recreational shooting of native waterbirds.

The endorsing organisations recognise that:

1. The activity of duck shooting is cruel and barbaric. On cruelty grounds the Victorian State Government's own Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) recommended a permanent ban on recreational duck shooting in 1993, 1995, 1997, 2000 and 2003.
2. Wounding rates are unacceptably high. The activity relies on the use of a shotgun, not a rifle. Birds are frequently wounded by the spray of pellets and are cruelly left to die.
3. Native waterbirds down the east coast of Australia are at their lowest since annual surveys were commenced in 1984.
4. The Victorian State Government is ignoring both the environmental and ethical issues in condoning the activity.
5. The public at large supports a ban. A statewide AC Nielsen poll conducted in 2003 showed that 70% said 'Yes' in response to the question, 'Should the recreational shooting of Australian native waterbirds be permanently banned?'
6. Victoria ought take a national approach on duck shooting and follow the precedents of NSW, WA and Queensland State Labor Governments in banning the activity.
7. It is disturbing that the Victorian State Government permits children from the age of 12 years to participate in this cruel and unethical activity.
8. Regions like Kerang and nearby Boort and Donald, as well as Gippsland and Geelong, and other areas throughout Victoria have diverse wetlands, over 150 species of native waterbirds and some significant indigenous heritage sites. The Victorian State Government should encourage wetlands tourism as an economic boost to regional and country Victoria, as occurred with penguins at Phillip Island and the Southern Right Whales at Warrnambool. Recreational duck shooting is clearly incompatible with wetland environmental-tourism.

**ENDORISING GROUPS
CALLING FOR A BAN ON
RECREATIONAL DUCK SHOOTING IN VICTORIA**

ENVIRONMENTAL

Birds Australia
 Bird Observers Club of Australia
 Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
 Coalition Against Duck Shooting (CADS)
 Field Naturalists Club of Victoria Inc
 Friends of the Earth (FOE)
 The Wilderness Society (TWS)
 Environment East Gippsland (EEG)
 Australian Plants Society (Vic)
 Black Range Landcare Group
 Blackburn & District Tree Preservation
 Society Inc
 Croydon conservation Society
 Field Naturalists Club of Bendigo Inc
 Field Naturalists Club of Latrobe Valley Inc
 Friends of Mallacoota
 Friends of Wattle Park
 Kingston Conservation and Environment
 Coalition
 Loreto Environment group
 Mallacoota Coastcare Weeding Group
 Mount Evelyn Environment Protection &
 Progress Association Inc
 People for Environmental Protection
 Phillip Island Conservation Society
 Protectors of Public Lands Victoria Inc
 South Gippsland Conservation Society

POLITICAL

Australian Greens Party (Victorian Branch)
 Whitehorse-Maroonah Branch of the
 Australian Greens
 ALP Members Opposed to Duck (ALP MoDS)
 Australian Democrats

ANIMAL WELFARE

Humane Society International (HSI)
 Animals Australia Inc
 Lawyers for Animals Inc
 Victorian Animal Welfare Association
 Help for Wildlife
 Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights Inc
 (BOAR)
 Victorian Animal Aid Trust
 Psychologists for the Promotion of Animal
 Welfare
 Animal Liberation Victoria
 Vegan Voice
 National Kangaroo Protection Coalition
 Wildlife Preservation
 Wildlife Protection Association of Australia Inc
 Wildlife Victoria Inc

ALP Branches that have passed Resolutions calling for a Ban

Blackburn Branch
 Box Hill Branch
 Broadmeadows Branch
 Brunswick Branch
 Burwood Branch
 Canterbury Branch
 Cheltenham Branch
 Clayton Branch
 Coburg West Branch
 Collingwood Branch
 Dandenong Branch
 Diamond Valley Branch

Elsternwick Branch
 Hawthorn Branch
 Ivanhoe Branch
 Malvern Branch
 Mentone Branch
 North Fitzroy Branch
 Northcote Branch
 Prahran Branch
 St Kilda Branch
 Strzelecki Hills Branch
 Waverley West Branch
 Yarraville Branch
