

Waterfowl hunting

BA has a policy on Waterfowl hunting dated November 2005 that states:

Birds Australia considers that recreational waterfowl hunting should not be allowed in Australia and its Territories.



Once again the Victorian Government is permitting a 2006 season in spite of the clear scientific evidence that shows that waterbird populations are under serious threat.

The campaign to permanently ban duck shooting in Victoria is at a critical stage and urgently seeks your help. ***It is imperative that Premier Steve Bracks continues to receive as many individual letters from Victorians as possible.***

To obtain a duck shooting permit, shooters must pass the a Waterfowl Identification Test in order to identify the eight species which usually become 'game' birds for three months annually. In spite of this, protected non-game species including pelicans, spoonbills, and other waterbirds and waders, and birds of prey, continue to be killed, as well as the threatened Freckled Duck.

Duck shooting is cruel. Research has shown that 30 - 50% of birds fly off wounded - often shot through the wings, eyes, feet, beak and body, yet still survive for weeks of pain and suffering before finally dying.

Birds Australia - Victoria urges members and concerned members of the public to contact

The Premier Steve Bracks on e-mail steve.bracks@parliament.vic.gov.au or electoral office address 101 Douglas Pde (PO Box 524), Williamstown 3016, or Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002



and

Minister John Thwaites on e-mail john.thwaites@parliament.vic.gov.au or electoral office address 357 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne 3205

and

your local members of both houses (refer to the Victoria government website for those contacts on www.parliament.vic.gov.au) asking them to introduce a permanent ban on the shooting of native waterfowl in Victoria.

You may use the proforma text below. Please copy and paste this into your submission or print it out and send it by normal mail. Also ask a friend to sign and send off the form letter below.

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<INSERT DATE>

Premier Steve Bracks
C/- Parliament House
Spring Street
MELBOURNE 3000.

Dear Mr. Bracks,

The decision to allow a Waterfowl hunting season in 2006 is considered to be a very bad decision and to be quite contrary to the thrust of the scientific evidence used by your government to make that decision.

Native waterbirds have intrinsic value and are a valuable part of Australia's ecology. They should not be used as targets for recreational shooters. To avoid destruction of protected species shot in the course of that hunting and unnecessary suffering please ensure duck shooting is banned now and permanently hereafter.

Yours sincerely,

<INSERT YOUR NAME>
<INSERT YOUR SIGNATURE>
<INSERT YOUR ADDRESS><INSERT YOUR POSTCODE>
<INSERT ANY FURTHER COMMENTS>

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Image: Top: A Cormorant illegally shot during the opening weekend of the 1993 duck season at Lake Cowal NSW © K Pearson 1993. Middle: A Freckled Duck shot illegally during the opening weekend of the 1993 duck season at Lake Buloke © S Poyser 1993. Bottom: A row of Cormorants shot from one tree on the opening morning of the 1997 duck season at Merrin Merrin Swamp, Clunes © R Armstrong & S Peterson 1997.