

# **NATIONAL Common Position Statement of Conservation, Animal, and Political Groups calling for a permanent ban on the recreational shooting of native waterbirds**

Dated: 22 October 2008  
Convener – Trevor Poulton  
ALP Members Opposed to Duck Shooting (ALP MoDS)

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## **RESOLUTION**

The endorsing organisations call on the Federal government to:

- (a) Adopt and implement a national policy to permanently ban the recreational shooting of native waterbirds.
- (b) Amend the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Subdivision B – Wetlands of international importance) to provide for a specific ban on recreational hunting of native ducks on RAMSAR Sites\* throughout Australia.
- (c) Work in co-operation with States and the Northern Territory to reach an intergovernmental agreement for all governments to legislate for a permanent ban on the recreational shooting of native waterbirds.

**The endorsing organisations recognise that:**

- The recreational shooting of native waterbirds is unsustainable. Aerial surveys conducted by Professor Richard Kingsford (University of NSW) since 1983 show waterbird numbers across eastern Australia have decreased by 82% due to climate change, extended droughts and more frequent El Ninos.
- Duck shooting is cruel because of high wounding rates caused by the spray of shot gun pellets. One in four waterbirds fly away wounded. The Victorian government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) has repeatedly recommended that the recreational shooting of native waterbirds be banned on cruelty grounds.
- The public overwhelmingly opposes the activity. Duck shooting has been banned in Queensland, NSW and WA. A statewide Morgan Research poll conducted in Victoria in 2007 showed that 75% want the recreational shooting of native waterbirds permanently banned.
- The Victorian, Tasmanian, South Australian and Northern Territory governments are ignoring environmental and ethical issues in maintaining legislation that authorises the shooting of native waterbirds for recreational purposes. As waterbirds are nomadic and cross over state boundaries, the duck shooting policies of these governments undermine the protection afforded to native waterbirds by other States.
- Given community concern over the ethics of duck shooting, combined with declining bird numbers, diminishing wetlands and the effects of drought and climate change, as well as inconsistent policies of the states/territory governments on duck shooting, there is an urgent need for the Federal government to:
  - (a) develop a national approach to the issue by permanently banning recreational duck shooting on all RAMSAR\* wetlands throughout Australia; and
  - (b) seek the co-operation of all States/Territory governments for an agreement nationwide to permanently ban the activity.

**\* RAMSAR Treaty (*The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat.*)**

The Commonwealth is a signatory to the international RAMSAR Treaty giving it direct management and responsibility for significant areas of Australia's wetlands known as RAMSAR Sites, being 'Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat'. Under the RAMSAR Treaty the Commonwealth is obligated to work in partnership with State/Territory and local governments to:

- conserve Australia's wetlands through the promotion of their ecological, cultural, economic and social values; and
- ensure a sound scientific basis for the conservation and ecologically sustainable development of wetlands.

## Endorsing Groups calling for a National Permanent Ban on Recreational Shooting of Native Waterbirds

### CONSERVATION GROUPS

#### **National organisations**

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)  
 Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)  
 Birds Australia  
 Bird Observation and Conservation Australia (BOCA)  
 Friends of the Earth (FOE)  
 Sea Shepherd Conservation Society  
 The Wilderness Society (TWS)  
 Australian Student Environment Network

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

Conservation Council of South East Region and Canberra  
 ACT & Region Frogwatch  
 Canberra Ornithologists Group  
 Friends of Grasslands

#### **New South Wales**

Nature Conservation Council NSW  
 Total Environment Centre  
 Birding NSW  
 Clarence Environment Centre  
 Coast & Wetlands Society Inc  
 Colong Foundation for Wilderness  
 EcoNetwork – Port Stephens  
 Great Lakes Environment Assoc. Inc.  
 Hornsby Conservation Society  
 Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists Inc  
 North Coast Environment Council Inc  
 NSW Bird Atlassers Inc  
 Nambucca Valley Conservation Association  
 Ryde-Hunters Hill Flora & Fauna Preservation Society  
 Scotts Head Protection Group  
 STEP Inc  
 Ulitarra Conservation Society  
 URGE Lake Macquarie Inc  
 Willoughby Environment Protection Assoc  
 Wolli Creek Preservation Society

#### **Northern Territory**

Environment Centre of the Northern Territory  
 Arid Lands Environment Centre

#### **Queensland**

Queensland Conservation Council  
 Cairns and Far North Environment Centre  
 Gold Coast and Hinterland Environment

Capricorn Conservation Council  
 Conondale Range Committee  
 Douglas Shire Sustainability Group  
 Mackay Conservation Group  
 Moggill Creek Catchment Group  
 National Parks Association Queensland Inc  
 North Queensland Conservation Council  
 Sunshine Coast Environment Council  
 Tamborine Mountain Natural History Assoc  
 Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council  
 Wild Mountains

#### **South Australia**

Conservation Council of South Australia  
 Bird Care & Conservation Society  
 Field Naturalists Club of South Australia  
 Residents of Inner North-West Adelaide Inc.

#### **Tasmania**

Environment Tasmania  
 Tasmanian National Parks Association  
 Doctors for Forests  
 Friends of the Blue Tier  
 Future Tasmania  
 Petcheys Bay Coastcare

#### **Victoria**

Environment Victoria (EV)  
 Beyond Zero Emissions  
 Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society  
 Coalition Against Duck Shooting (CADS)  
 Darebin Parklands Association  
 Environment East Gippsland (EEG)  
 Friends of Darebin Creek Inc.  
 Friends of Mallacoota  
 Friends of Wattle Park  
 Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club  
 Otway Conservation Council  
 Port Phillip EcoCentre Inc  
 South Gippsland Conservation Society  
 Warringal Conservation Society

#### **Western Australia**

Conservation Council WA  
 Denmark Environment Centre  
 Naragebup Rockingham Regional Environment Centre  
 Urban Bushland Council (WA)

## Endorsing Groups calling for a National Permanent Ban on Recreational Shooting of Native Waterbirds

Council  
Bayside Creeks Catchment Group  
Birds Queensland

### ANIMAL GROUPS

#### **National organisations**

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals (RSPCA Australia)  
Animals Australia  
International Fund for Animal Welfare Asia  
Pacific  
The Humane Society International  
Voiceless – The Fund for Animals  
Wildlife Advocate Inc.  
Wildlife Preservation Society of Australia  
World League for Protection of Animals

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

Animal Liberation ACT  
Wildlife Carers Group Inc.

#### **New South Wales**

Animal Liberation NSW  
Australian Seabird Rescue (Central Coast)  
Duck Coalition  
For Australian Wildlife Needing Aid (FAWNA)  
Hunter Animal Watch  
Native Animal Network Assoc.  
NSW Wildlife Council Inc  
Professional Australian Wildlife Services  
Southern Cross Wildlife Care  
Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers  
WIRES

#### **Northern Territory**

Katherine Wildlife Rescue Service  
Wildcare (Darwin)  
Wildlife Rescue Darwin

#### **Queensland**

Animal Activism Queensland  
Animal Liberation  
Padaminka Nature Refuge

Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland

#### **South Australia**

Animal Liberation SA  
Fauna Rescue  
Native Animal Network  
Wildlife Welfare Organisation of SA Inc

#### **Tasmania**

Against Animal Cruelty Tasmania  
Animal Rescue Deloraine Tasmania

#### **Victoria**

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals (RSPCA) (Vic)  
Animal Aid  
Australian Animal Protection Society  
Australian Catholic Study Circle for Animal  
Welfare  
Animal Liberation Victoria  
Australian wildlife Assistance Rescue and  
Education (AWARE)  
Bendigo Animal Shelter  
Choose Cruelty Free  
Edgars Mission  
Lawyers for Animals Inc  
Psychologists for the Promotion of Animal  
Welfare  
Rescued with Love  
Tierra Madre Wildlife Shelter  
Victorian Advocates for Animals  
Wildlife Victoria  
The Winsome Constance Kindness Trust

#### **Western Australia**

Animal Rights Advocates  
Darling Range Wildlife Shelter

### POLITICAL GROUPS

#### **Groups**

ALP Members Opposed to Duck Shooting  
(ALP MoDS) (Victoria)

The Australian Greens:  
NSW State Executive  
Queensland State Executive  
South Australia State Executive

Victoria State Executive  
Western Australia State Executive  
Inner Southern Greens Branch of SA Greens

#### **Greens Party Members of Parliament**

WA Senator Rachel Siewert  
NSW Greens MLC Lee Rhiannon

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**Endorsing Groups calling for a National Permanent Ban on  
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Tasmania State Executive

VIC Greens MLC Greg Barber

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**Endorsement by ALP Branches of Victorian Common Position Statement 2006  
calling for a permanent ban on recreational duck shooting in Victoria**

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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

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**Contact:**

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