

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. 9 of 2021
House of Assembly

The petitioners ask the House to:

The petition of the undersigned Citizens of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House the cruel and unsustainable practice of shooting native ducks. Every year tens of thousands of native ducks are shot in lutruwita/Tasmania for "sport". Some of these ducks are killed outright or after retrieval. Many others are wounded but not found, and slowly die suffering pain and distress. Duck shooting also threatens the survival of wild duck species. Duck numbers are on decline around Australia. Climate change, pressures from droughts and fires on these water dependent birds is increasing. Duck shooting often causes the death of "non target" birds – including endangered ones - which are shot by mistake. Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland have banned duck shooting. These states recognised animal welfare and environmental protection are more important than a "sport" enjoyed by a small number of people. It's time Tasmania did the same. Your petitioners therefore ask the House to ban native duck shooting in lutruwita/Tasmania.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

RESPONSE:

- The Tasmanian Government recognises appropriately managed duck hunting as a traditional form of recreation in Tasmania.
- The Department manages an open season to provide access for recreational hunting and has strict regulations and procedures in place to ensure that the hunting of ducks is humane and sustainable.
- Determination of the wild duck hunting season is based on the results of the waterfowl monitoring surveys of wetlands which have been conducted by DPIPW in Tasmania for more than three decades.
- Surveys have been conducted under governments of all sides, including the previous Labor-Green Government which, it is understood, did not ban duck hunting.
- These surveys show no evidence of long-term decline in wild duck numbers in Tasmania over this period.
- Animal welfare is taken very seriously by the Government with hunters required to abide by the rules and regulations monitored by DPIPW compliance officers who, where necessary, enforce those requirements.

- As a prerequisite to obtaining a game licence to take ducks applicants must pass the Waterfowl Identification Test which ensures they have an appropriate knowledge of duck species that may be taken and other waterfowl species that may not be taken.



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Date: 6/9/21