

10th March 2009

The Hon. John Brumby
Office of the Premier
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Premier

Duck Hunting – 2009

Bird Observation & Conservation Australia (BOCA) is a national non-government organisation with more than 3000 members throughout Australia. Within Victoria BOCA has 16 Branches, mainly in rural areas, from Mildura to Warrnambool to East Gippsland.

BOCA's objectives may be summarised as appreciation, education and conservation relating to Australian birds and their habitats; these are the basis for BOCA's long-standing policy opposing the recreational shooting of native birds.

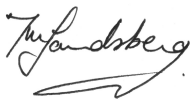
Your Government's decision to support a duck-hunting season in 2009 is appalling! The lack of water and ducks in 2007 and 2008 quite rightly justified the decisions to not have open seasons in those years. The drought continues, there is no sign of an overall recovery of duck numbers in Victoria, but, regardless of this, your Government illogically allows hunting of the remaining scattered populations of ducks.

In the lead-up to your Government's decision, BOCA accepted invitations from the Department of Sustainability and Environment and Minister Jennings to meet and discuss the issues in relation to a 2009 season. We were grateful to have these opportunities, but did not see any data which would justify your Government's decision.

Given that the announcement is yet to be made, as to which wetlands should be closed because of threatened species or to act as refuges, BOCA proposes that this evaluation should lead to a decision to cancel the 2009 duck season.

We are well aware of the constraints and conditions announced in Minister Jennings media release of 4th February but BOCA believes that these are inadequate at this time when there is unprecedented stress on the natural environment and our wildlife – particularly those species which are dependent on water. BOCA strongly believes that the 2009 duck hunting season should be cancelled.

Yours sincerely



Tim Landsberg
President