



## Media Release

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### ***Another Fowl Political Decision***

At last the drought is over, and rather than allowing our besieged waterfowl populations to recover after 13 years of debilitating drought, Victoria's new Baillieu State Government has responded by approving the 2011 Recreational Duck Shooting Season for the widespread slaughter of native wildlife.

While most people would throw a lifeline to our besieged waterfowl and put an end to the annual massacre (as has happened in most other states), the Government has instead extended the duration of the Duck Shooting Season to 12 weeks and increased the bag limit of ducks that can be shot up to 10 ducks for every day of the season. That is, every hunter can legally kill up to 840 ducks this year (if they were laid from end to end, they would stretch more than 3½ times the length of the MCG).

The two national bird conservation organisations, Birds Australia and Bird Observation & Conservation Australia, vehemently oppose the expansion of the Recreational Duck Shooting Season, and emphatically reject that it should be allowed to occur at all.

“The level of mortality and wounding of these native birds for the amusement of a handful of shooters cannot be justified in a modern society,” said Dr Graeme Hamilton, Birds Australia CEO. “Young, inexperienced ducks will bear the brunt of the onslaught, which could be disastrous for the overall waterfowl population for years to come”.

Polls have regularly shown overwhelming support for the abolition of duck shooting in Victoria, and yet successive governments have insisted on pandering to a small number of shooters, especially in rural constituencies.

“There can be no realistic justification for this decision. Our wildlife should not be sacrificed for political purposes. Victoria's Recreational Duck Shooting Season should be abandoned once and for all”, said Dr Hamilton. “After all,” he added, “there are substantial penalties if you kill virtually any other native wildlife, but you can happily shoot native waterfowl for the fun of it”.

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