

Open letter to the Victorian Premier and Ministers for Agriculture and Environment

Dear Premier and Ministers,

At its November 2019 conference, the Victorian Labor Party committed to review its policy on recreational native waterbird shooting.

We call on the Andrews Government to honor this commitment.

Here's why.

Cruelty. Expert ballistics reports show at least one in four of the hundreds of thousands of birds shot each year in Victoria will not be killed outright but flap away to die a slow painful death. Many others will live to suffer permanent injuries.

Economics. Studies show there would be an economic benefit in banning the activity as other states have done. With rural communities crying out for a financial lifeline and 866,000 domestic tourists engaging in birdwatching last year, it makes sense to protect our natural wildlife assets.

Sustainability. Populations of our native waterbirds – many species unique to our country – are in significant long term decline.

Biodiversity. Considerable numbers of threatened and protected species are killed as collateral damage of duck shooting seasons including the Freckled Duck, Australia's rarest native duck also thought to be one of the world's rarest.

Safety. It is not possible to monitor the thousands of public waterways where recreational waterbird shooting is allowed, placing our wildlife and the public at risk. More people live around the waterways now than they did in the 1950s and many have expressed fears about their personal health and safety during duck shooting.

Democracy. Less than half of one percent of the population shoot ducks. Professional polls continue to show that the majority of Victorians – city and country – want duck shooting to end.

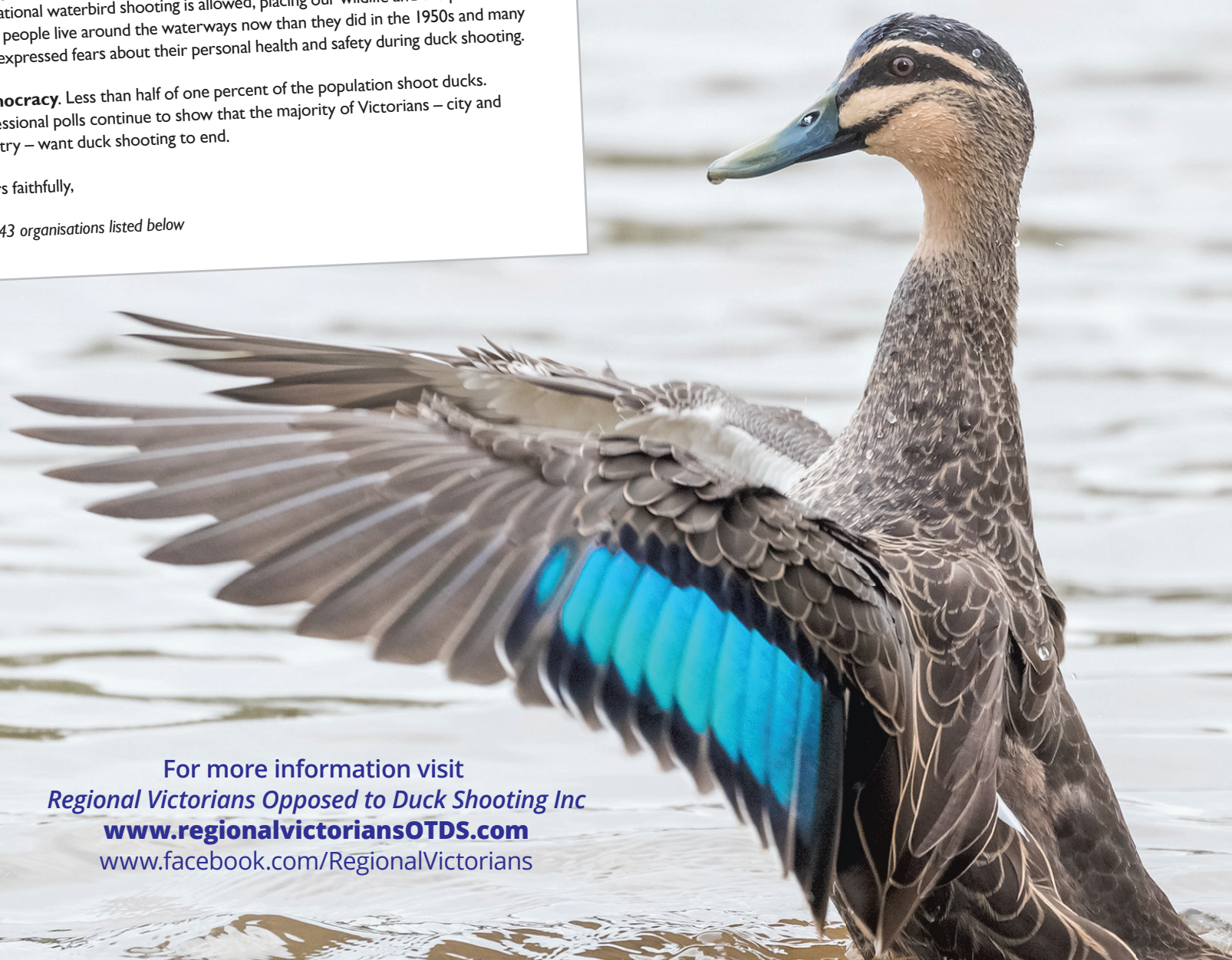
Yours faithfully,

The 43 organisations listed below

Our warming climate is bringing longer droughts and fire seasons. We can save struggling waterbirds by removing additional man-made threats.

The next native duck shooting season is often decided by Christmas.

IT'S TIME VICTORIA BANNED DUCK SHOOTING



For more information visit
Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc
www.regionalvictoriansOTDS.com
www.facebook.com/RegionalVictorians

- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Humane Society International
- Australian Education Union Victorian Branch
- Wildlife Victoria
- United Firefighters Union of Australia Victorian Branch
- Australian Ethical Investment
- Environment Victoria
- BirdLife Australia
- Animals Australia
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education (WIRES)
- Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc
- Environment East Gippsland Inc

- Goulburn Valley Environment Group
- Coalition Against Duck Shooting
- Castlemaine Field Naturalists Club
- Hamilton Field Naturalists Club
- Peninsula Field Naturalists Club
- Portland Field Naturalists Club Inc
- St Arnaud Field Naturalists Club Inc
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- Friends of The Box Ironbark Forests (Mount Alexander Region)
- Friends of the Earth
- East Trentham Wildlife Shelter
- Warringal Conservation Society
- Lawyers for Animals Inc
- Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group

- Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- Australian Wildlife Society
- Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc
- Friends of Mallecoota
- Nillumbik Environment and Sustainability
- Carriage in The Bush
- Five Freedoms Animal Rescue
- Choose Cruelty Free
- Australian Wildlife Assistance Rescue and Education (AWARE)
- Animal Active Australia
- Friends of Bats and Bushcare Inc
- Wildlife Carers Group
- Advocating Wild
- Ocean Legal Animals Rights Lawyers
- Kangaloola Wildlife Shelter

Photo by Nalini Scarfe