

## FACT SHEET

# Duck hunting on creeks and rivers

Duck hunting on creeks and rivers (waterways) can be rewarding but challenging to ensure you remain safe and hunt within the law. The river environment is forever changing and thought must be given to shot fall-out.

The following information will assist you to have a safe waterway hunt, not only for yourself, but for other waterway users and adjoining property owners.

### Always be aware of your surroundings

You must be familiar with your hunting area and aware of the surroundings. Scouting is important, not only for studying waterfowl behaviour and flight paths, but for noting the location of other people, boundaries, houses, sheds, roads, livestock and other property.

It is an offence to use a firearm in a dangerous manner or to damage property.

### Beware of private property and leased or licensed public land

It is illegal for you to shoot onto or across private property without permission from the property owner. Similarly, it is illegal to shoot onto or across leased or licensed public land without the permission of the lease or licence holder. This includes unintentional shot fall-out on these lands.

It is illegal to carry your firearm onto private property without the permission of the land holder.

Hunters must not carry a loaded firearm on any thoroughfare or place open to, or used by, the public for passage with vehicles. It is an offence to shoot onto or across public roads or tracks or towards populated areas, including camping and picnic areas.

For more information visit [www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms)

### Penalties

People committing any of these firearm offences can be fined or arrested, found guilty by a court and a penalty imposed. You can also lose your firearm and Firearms Licence.

The maximum penalty that can be imposed by the courts if found guilty is 60 penalty units and a conviction can be recorded or 12 months imprisonment.

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### Safe hunting practice for waterways

- Make sure the area you are in is open to hunting.
- Set yourself up on a bend where you have a clear line of sight down the length of the waterway.
- Identify a safe firing zone where ducks can be safely taken and where shot fall-out will land in a legal hunting area and will not strike people or property.
- Only shoot at birds within your effective shooting skills distance (for most hunters this is within 30 metres) and use the correct load and choke combination for an effective kill (see The Tom Roster 2012 non-toxic shot lethality table - adapted to Victorian Game Birds® in the Victorian Hunting Guide).
- Use decoys and calls to draw birds within your effective shooting skills distance.
- Ensure you are hunting in an area where downed birds are easily collected and not lost (e.g. avoid heavy cover).
- Avoid firing at the water, however, if you are dispatching a wounded duck on the water, be mindful of ricochet and the backdrop.
- Pass shooting is fine as long as you don't shoot onto or across private property or leased or licensed public land without the property owner's consent.

### Important things to remember

#### Hunting from a boat

On waterways, you are allowed to hunt duck from a boat under power, up to a speed of five knots. Be mindful of the wash your boat creates and its effect on kayakers and fishermen. Remember, you may not be the only vessel on the river.

All boat occupants must comply with Marine Safety Victoria boating safety requirements, including wearing a life jacket.

For more information, go to [www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au)

#### Litter

Keep our creeks and rivers clean by making sure you collect all your empty cartridges and taking any other waste with you.



**RESPECT**  
HUNT RESPONSIBLY

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For more information about Game Management Authority go to [www.gma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au)

# Duck hunting on creeks and rivers

*Beware of your surroundings including boundaries, roadways, people, property and livestock*



Avoid firing on the water.  
Beware of ricochet



Shoot down the length of the waterway

Do not trespass



Never shoot onto or across private, leased or licensed property without permission

5 knot speed limit applies to hunting from a boat.  
Abide by all safety requirements, including wearing life jackets when under way

