



SHOOTING SPORTS COUNCIL OF VICTORIA Inc.
PROMOTING THE IMAGE OF AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SHOOTING SPORTS

PO Box 2115,
Blackburn South, 3130

Mr. Simon Toop
Director Strategy and Research
Game Management Authority
121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

27/11/2019

Dear Simon,

Submission on the Proposed 2020 Duck Hunting Season

The Shooting Sports Council of Victoria is grateful for the opportunity to make this submission on the 2020 Duck Hunting Season.

We note that this submission is made without any reliance on the trends that are part of the NSW University Aerial Survey being available at this time, and that the impact of the Aerial Survey on bird habitat and availability may alter this submission.

We have recently observed bird abundance and distribution within the Kerang to Echuca area. This indicated numbers of game bird species on the dams and irrigation channels within that area. These numbers were not large but birds observed were healthy and showed good plumage and body weight.

During our observation of the Kerang area there was good levels of water within the irrigation channels, and the farm dams had water in them but not at a high level. No State Game Reserves were observed and none of our comments can be attributed to SGR's.

All birds observed were in pairs or groups, there was no observance of fledglings on the abundant water to the irrigation channels.

Council has concluded that a Duck Hunting Season for 2020 is sustainable; we would however recommend some variations to the season due to the current situation of a lack of research material and unpredictable weather patterns in the state. These variations include, but are not limited to;

- Reducing the season, this could be achieved by postponing the opening date by 4 weeks until Saturday April 18 2020, which avoids the Easter holiday period.
- Reducing the bag limit, the proposed limit should be modelled on the 2019 season limits which were 4 birds per day on the opening weekend and a 5 bird limit per day for the remainder of the season.

- We also see merit in increasing the bag to include extra numbers of Wood Duck being allowed, as these birds are bordering on pest status within the farming districts within the state.

Council expresses its concern of the inclusion of anti duck hunting groups to the stakeholder meetings to discuss a 2020 duck season. These groups are known to be staunch vocal opposers to the duck season and therefore have no valuable input to this process. It is also of concern that the principle objective of the Game Management Authority is to administer game management within Victoria. The licensed game shooters of this state expect the GMA to provide this service and have no cause listening to groups that can offer no rational arguments except that the season and duck shooting, in total, be banned.

Council would be pleased to discuss this matter, in greater detail with the Game Management Authority.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Croft', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Croft
Secretary SSCV
Mob.0407 055 818