



## Friends of the Gippsland Lakes Parks and Reserves

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### FOGL position on Duck Shooting

Prepared for FOGL  
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Updated 28 May 2015

In 2012, based on a well-referenced paper in the 'Birds SA' magazine (May 2011 p 5 -7) and an impassioned speech to parliament by Melissa Parke MP (Hansard 2011 p 3663), FoGL adopted a position of opposing duck shooting. Whilst duck shooting has been banned in NSW, WA and Queensland, it continues in other states including Victoria. This in spite of opposition from BirdLife Australia and the RSPCA and surveys that consistently report that between 70 & 90% of Australians are opposed to this so-called sport. The Melbourne Age has also consistently called for a ban on duck shooting in this state.

- The arguments against duck shooting are many and varied including:-It is incongruous with the goals of wildlife conservation and the values of any organisation purporting to support conservation activities.
- Non-target species, including those that are rare and endangered, are frequently shot either intentionally or by accident. The latter is not surprising given the questionable ability of shooters to identify birds in the 'heat' of the shoot and in poor light. For example, during the first week of the 2014 season, the following dead and wounded birds were recovered by CADS rescuers:

#### Game Species

Hard heads: 2  
Wood ducks: 5  
Grey teal: 74  
Pacific black ducks: 7  
Pink-eared ducks: 61  
Blue-wing shovelers: 14  
Chestnut teal: 3

#### Protected and Endangered Species

Freckled ducks: >100  
Eurasian coot: 27  
Raven species: 3  
Great Crested Grebe: 1  
Black swan: 1

- Injuries to birds that are eventually fatal are frequent and thus their pain and suffering is considerable. Many are crippled and die prolonged deaths.
- Only a small and decreasing minority of the population now participate in duck shooting and the vast majority of the population are opposed to it.

#### References and Further Information:

- Coalition Against Duck Shooting (CADS). Newsletter 30 April, 2014.
- Close, David (2011). Duck Shooting. In *Birds SA*, May, pages 5-7.
- Parke, Melissa, MP (2011). *Hansard*, page 3663.