

From: [Fletcher, Stuart](#)
To: [Rodger, Carole](#)
Subject: As discussed
Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2020 5:55:00 PM
Attachments: [MM-Wild Duck Season-2020 RT-gh RT.docx](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)

As discussed

Stuart Fletcher | Acting General Manager
AgriGrowth Tasmania

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment
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GPO Box 44 Hobart TAS 7001
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EA: Caroline Flood | 03 616 53225 | Caroline.Flood@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au



<http://dpiuwe.tas.gov.au/ContentImages/White%20ribbon%20accredited%20workplace.jpg>



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From: Thompson, Robin P (DPIPWE) <Robin.Thompson@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2020 5:30 PM
To: Fletcher, Stuart (DPIPWE) <Stuart.Fletcher@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Ducks

Hi Stuart,
Attached is some information that may help you prosecute our argument.
Cheers
Robin

Robin Thompson
Manager, Game Services Tasmania

AgriGrowth Tasmania
171 Westbury Road, Prospect Tasmania
Phone +613 67772157 Mobile: 0408 129 371
Email: robin.thompson@dpiuwe.tas.gov.au

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

Guy Barnett MP
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER

Ministerial Number:
Doc ONE ID Number:

STATUS:
CRITICAL DATE:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cabinet / Executive Council / PLP Paper / Legislative Amendments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Minute to Minister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Prepared reply for correspondence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Briefing note |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: |

SUBJECT: OPEN SEASON ON WILD DUCK- 2020

DIVISION COMMENTS:

MINISTER'S OFFICE –	Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.
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Stuart Fletcher
A/ GENERAL MANAGER
AgriGrowth DIVISION

MINISTERIAL UNIT COMMENTS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Emailed to Minister's Office	Date Package sent to Minister's Office:
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MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:

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Section 27

Background:

History

Tasmania has had an open season on wild duck each year for over 40 years. The number of hunters participating in the season has declined from over 3,000 in the 1980's to approximately 1,100 in recent years. In 2019, there were 1,134 licensed hunters that took an estimated 49,000 wild duck.

Surveys co-ordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Water over the past 35 years have shown no long term declines in the abundance of hunted duck species in Tasmania although the influence of migration from mainland sources has not been regularly quantified.

2020 Assessments

Arrangements are currently in place for an open season on wild duck to be held in Tasmania from 7 March to 8 June 2020.

Mainland states are taking a conservative approach to harvesting ducks in 2020:

- South Australia aims to reduce the 2020 wild duck harvest by 70% of the long term average by adopting a strategy that reduces the daily bird take from ten to three and the season length from twelve weeks to seven.
- It is understood the Victorian Game Management Authority has recommended reducing the duck harvest in 2020 in order to help preserve the core breeding stock.
- New South Wales, while not having a duck hunting season, has reduced the cull quota from 120 000 in 2016 to 40 000 in 2020.

In making this decision, the mainland states have taken into account the results of recent surveys of waterbird populations and wetland area across the eastern mainland States. These surveys commenced in 1983 to monitor changes in abundance and distribution of 50 waterbird species (including all hunted duck species) in eastern Australia from southern Victoria to north Queensland, but not including Tasmania.

These surveys found the abundance of waterbirds in 2019 to be among the lowest since recording began with about 50% of birds being found on eleven wetlands. Similarly, the wetland area index for 2019 being the lowest recorded since the surveys began. This clearly demonstrates the area available for ducks is historically low with negative impacts on breeding and survival success as well as concentrating birds on smaller areas.

In Tasmania, waterfowl surveys are scheduled to be conducted in February 2020. It is likely that these surveys will continue to yield average or above counts as a result of a movement of ducks from drier areas of mainland Australia to the wetlands in Tasmania.

Extensive banding of ducks done on the mainland of Australia and in Tasmania during the 1970's confirms that there is extensive movement of ducks including the major game species across Bass Strait. For example, 9% of over 1000 chestnut teal banded on the mainland were recovered, mainly by hunters, in Tasmania.

More recently, Birdlife Tasmania has reported increased numbers of normally rare freckled duck and hardhead ducks in Tasmania which is also an indicator of migration of waterfowl from mainland states. Similarly Birdlife Tasmania report an increase in the abundance of chestnut teal relative to grey teal as evidence of a significant influx of birds from mainland states in response to drought.

Based on this evidence of significant movement of ducks from drought affected mainland states, Birdlife Tasmania has requested that measures are undertaken to reduce the impact of hunting on what is considered to be an important source of breeding stock to repopulate wetlands in mainland states following drought.

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A communications strategy embracing a number of channels including media, DPIPWE web site and stakeholder group meetings as well as a frequently asked questions fact sheet will be developed to communicate the changes to stakeholder groups.

Prepared by:	Greg Hocking	Cleared by:	Stuart Fletcher
Position:	Principle Wildlife Management officer	Position:	A/Director AgriGrowth
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Phone:	61654336	Phone:	61653067

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Energy
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No: M449221

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: WILD DUCK HUNTING

(Date: ~~30-05-1925~~ 02 20)

TALKING POINTS:

- Section 27
[Redacted]
- The ~~2019-2020~~ hunting season for wild duck in Tasmania ~~opened~~ opens on Saturday ~~9-7~~ March and closes on Monday ~~10-8~~ June.
- Wildlife enforcement officers monitor the activities of duck hunters at wetlands to ensure compliance with the regulations, which include bag limits, not taking protected species, and the use of lead shot.
- Surveys conducted of wild duck populations each February for the past ~~30-35~~ years by DPIPWE show no evidence of long-term decline in wild duck numbers in Tasmania over this period, with results of surveys undertaken in February 2020 showing that while counts of hunted ducks were lower than in 2019, numbers remain within the range observed in recent years.

- Each year, approximately 1 000 recreational licences are sold and approximately 50 000 ducks are harvested. In 2019, 1,134 licences were sold resulting in an estimated 49,671 ducks being taken.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS:

- **2019-2020 OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCK**
- **SUSTAINABILITY OF DUCK HUNTING**
- **COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS**

2019-2020 OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCK

- The 2019-2020 hunting season for wild duck in Tasmania opened is scheduled to open on Saturday 9-7 March and closes on Monday 10-8 June.

- Five species of duck are available to licensed hunters during the season, with each hunter having a bag limit of no more than 10 wild duck per day.
- Persons wanting to hunt wild duck during the open season must have passed a waterfowl identification test, purchased a game licence to hunt wild duck, and have the permission of the landholder on whose land they are hunting.
- ~~As at 8 May 2019, a total of 1 124 duck licences have been sold for the 2019 season compared to 1 161 for the whole 2018 season.~~

SUSTAINABILITY OF DUCK HUNTING

- DPIPWVE has conducted surveys of wild duck populations each February for the past 30 years.
- There is no evidence of long-term decline in wild duck numbers in Tasmania over this period.
- These surveys indicate that duck populations are largely driven by environmental conditions, such as rainfall.
- Recreational hunting has not been identified as having had a significant effect on duck populations.
- Drought conditions on mainland Australia ~~can have this year~~ resulted in ~~increased~~ movement of ducks from drier areas of mainland Australia to wetlands in Tasmania.
- However, it is considered that the relatively small Tasmanian duck harvest has little impact on either the Tasmanian or the greater eastern Australian duck population.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS

- Wildlife enforcement officers monitor the activities of duck hunters at wetlands to ensure compliance with the regulations, which include bag limits, not taking protected species, and the use of lead shot.
- I am advised that compliance with the regulations is very good.

Cleared by: [DANIELLE POIRIER](#) [Stuart Fletcher](#)
~~A/DIRECTOR~~ [Acting General Manager](#)
AGRIGROWTH DIVISION

Contact Officer: Greg Hocking phone: 61 654336

Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Energy
Minister for Resources
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Ref No: **M449221.6**

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: DUCK HUNTING

(Date: 4 March 2020)

ISSUE UPDATE 4/3/20 (Mercury) Reserves opened for duck hunting advertised. 26/2/20 (Mercury) & 25/2/20 (SX) – Birdlife Tasmania calls for 2020 duck hunting season to be cancelled to protect ducks fleeing mainland drought.

TALKING POINTS:

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- The Department manages an open season to provide access for recreational hunting and has strict regulations and procedures in place to ensure that the hunting of ducks is humane and sustainable.
- **Long term population monitoring of wild duck populations** conducted annually by DPIPWE shows **no evidence of long-term decline in wild duck numbers** in Tasmania over this period.
- Wildlife population trends are determined using scientifically robust and statistically valid methodologies.

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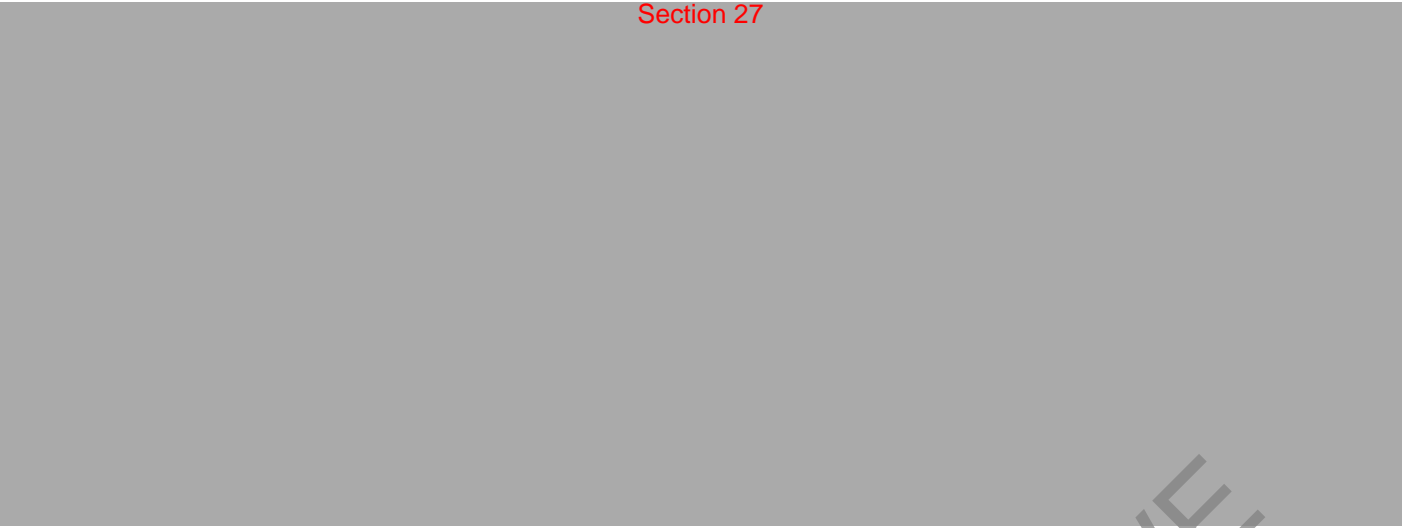
- [Game Services Tasmania is in regular contact with interstate counterparts regarding management of wildlife species including ducks that move between states.](#)
- Surveys undertaken in February 2020 showing that numbers remain within the range observed in recent years.
- Consequently, the 2020 hunting season for wild duck in Tasmania ~~will open~~ opened on Saturday 7 March and will close on Monday 8 June.
- Wildlife enforcement officers will monitor the activities of duck hunters at wetlands to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations in place.
- I am aware of calls from Birdlife Tasmania to cancel the 2020 duck hunting season and note in passing that they have a known track record in calling for the banning of the duck season, with similar calls made in both 2017 and 2018.

ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS:**If asked - Take and Licences**

- Each year, approximately 1 000 recreational licences are sold and approximately 50 000 ducks are harvested.
- [Only black duck, grey real, chestnut teal, mountain duck and wood duck can be legally hunted in Tasmania.](#)

- In 2019, 1,134 licences were sold resulting in an estimated 49,671 ducks being taken.
- Purchase of a duck hunting licence is conditional on provision of take returns from previous seasons being provided to DPIPWE where the information is used to assist with developing duck management strategies.

Section 27



Cleared by:

~~Stuart Fletcher~~ [Ashley Bastock](#)
A/ General Manager
AgriGrowth DIVISION

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

Guy Barnett MP

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER

Ministerial Number: MINI9/34688

Doc ONE ID Number: M593431

STATUS:

CRITICAL DATE:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet / Executive Council / PLP Paper / Legislative Amendments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minute to Minister
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepared Reply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BIRDLIFE TASMANIA REGARDING THE DUCK HUNTING SEASON 2020

DIVISION COMMENTS:

MINISTER'S OFFICE - Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.

Martin Read
**A/GENERAL MANAGER
AGRIGROWTH DIVISION**

MINISTERIAL UNIT COMMENTS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Emailed to Minister's Office	Date Package sent to Minister's Office:
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MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:

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Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Energy
Minister for Resources
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Email: guy.barnett@dpac.tas.gov.au



22 JAN 2020

Mr Ralph Cooper and Mr Eric Woehler
Birdlife Tasmania
Email: rabacooper@bigpond.com
eric.woehler@gmail.com

Dear Mr Cooper and Mr Woehler

Thank you for your letters of 20 December 2019 regarding the 2020 duck hunting season.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to ensuring that the take of any harvested wildlife species in Tasmania is both sustainable and humane.

Consequently, determinations regarding the 2020 duck season in Tasmania will be based on wetlands survey to be conducted in January and February, as well as the national impact of drought on the species of duck hunted in Tasmania.

I am aware that ducks move between Tasmania and mainland states in response to drought, so it is important to consider the Tasmanian population in light of that in other southern states.

I understand that Birdlife Tasmania members undertake surveys to estimate abundance or abundance trends of ducks and other birds in Tasmania. Should Birdlife Tasmania wish to share the findings and methodologies of these surveys with Game Services Tasmania, please contact Mr Robin Thompson, Manager—Game Services Tasmania, at robin.thompson@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or on (03) 6777 2157.

Thank you again for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Barnett".

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Guy Barnett MP

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER

Ministerial Number: MINI9/34726

Doc ONE ID Number: M594086

STATUS:

CRITICAL DATE:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabinet / Executive Council / PLP Paper / Legislative Amendments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minute to Minister
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepared Reply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO RALPH COOPER RE DUCK HUNTING SEASON

DIVISION COMMENTS:

MINISTER'S OFFICE - Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.

Martin Read
**A/GENERAL MANAGER
AGRIGROWTH TASMANIA**

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MINISTER'S OFFICE COMMENTS:

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Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water and Environment

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www.parks.tas.gov.au

MEMO

TO: TIM BAKER, A/SECRETARY

FROM: GREG HOCKING- GAME SERVICES TASMANIA

DATE:25/02/20

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALLOW WILD DUCK HUNTING ON
SPECIFIED RESERVED LAND**

I am seeking your approval as Director of National Parks and Wildlife and Director General of Lands to place the attached notice in Tasmanian daily newspapers prior to the opening of the wild duck season on 7 March 2020. The deadline for obtaining this approval is Friday 28 February 2020.

This notice grants a Game Authority to licensed Wild Duck hunters to hunt ducks on the following reserved land and Crown Land during the forthcoming wild duck season:

- MOULTING LAGOON GAME RESERVE
- LAKE TIBERIAS GAME RESERVE
- FARM COVE GAME RESERVE
- NORTH EAST RIVER GAME RESERVE
- WATERHOUSE CONSERVATION AREA
- CAMERON REGIONAL RESERVE
- LAKE CRESCENT PUBLIC RESERVE and unallocated Crown Land.
- LAKE CRESCENT including unallocated Crown Land only.
- LAKE SORELL including unallocated Crown Land only.
- BRUSHY LAGOON CONSERVATION AREA and Crown Land at Brushy Lagoon

The reserves listed above have traditionally been available for the hunting of wild duck. The areas of unallocated Crown Land comprising Lake Crescent, Lake Sorell and at Brushy Lagoon that have traditionally been subject to hunting have been included to meet the requirements of Section 23(1) of the *Firearms Act 1996*.

Under the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, the management objectives for Game Reserves, Conservation Areas and Regional Reserves provide for the taking of designated game species, such as wild duck, on an ecologically sustainable basis for private purposes.

Regulation 28 of the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2009* allows the Director of National Parks and Wildlife to grant an authority to take game in reserved land by means of a notice published in newspapers published in the State.

Regulation 23 of the *Crown Land Regulations 2011* allows the granting of an authority to have possession of any hunting equipment in a Public Reserve by means of a notice published in newspapers in the State.

Section 23(1) of the *Firearms Act 1996* requires a licensed firearms holder with a licence issued for recreational hunting or vermin control purposes to produce documentation to the Commissioner, if required, as proof that permission from the owner or occupier has been given to shoot on their land. This notice serves as that documentation.

Surveys conducted of wild duck populations each February for the past 35 years by DPIPWE show no evidence of long-term decline in wild duck numbers in Tasmania over this period, with results of surveys undertaken in February 2020 showing that while counts of hunted ducks were lower than in 2019, numbers remain within the range observed in recent years.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Greg Hocking
Principal Wildlife Management Officer

RTI-DL-RELEASE-DPIPWE

NOTICE TO WILD DUCK HUNTERS

Duck hunters are reminded that the taking of wild duck in National Parks and reserves is not permitted with the exception of the following:

- MOULTING LAGOON GAME RESERVE excluding the area known as “The Sanctuary” situated in the northern part of the lagoon bounded on the western shore by high water mark and on the eastern side by the Coles Bay Road.
- LAKE TIBERIAS GAME RESERVE
- FARM COVE GAME RESERVE
- NORTH-EAST RIVER GAME RESERVE
- WATERHOUSE CONSERVATION AREA including Big Waterhouse Lake and Blackman’s Lagoon only.
- CAMERON REGIONAL RESERVE excluding the Boobyalla and Foster Marshes area.
- LAKE CRESCENT- PUBLIC RESERVE (off Laycock Drive) for the purpose of carrying hunting equipment through to the edge of Lake Crescent only. Shooting within this public reserve is not permitted.
- LAKE CRESCENT including unallocated Crown Land only.
- LAKE SORELL including unallocated Crown Land only.
- BRUSHY LAGOON CONSERVATION AREA and Crown Land at Brushy Lagoon.

This authority is issued in accordance with Regulation 28 of the *National Parks and Reserved Land Regulations 2009* and Regulation 23 of the *Crown Land Regulations 2011* to the holders of wild duck licences to take wild duck in the above reserves during the period 7 March to 8 June 2020.

This authority also permits those licence holders to take a dog onto the above reserves for the purpose of retrieving wild duck.

NOTE: This notice does not confer a right to enter any private land.

Tim Baker
Director National Parks and Wildlife
Director-General Lands

Guy Barnett MP

MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WATER

Ministerial Number:

Doc ONE ID Number: M623481

STATUS:

CRITICAL DATE:

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Minute to Minister
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepared Reply
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing note
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:

SUBJECT: TEMPLATE LETTER RE CORRESPONDENCE ON DUCK HUNTING

DIVISION COMMENTS:

MINISTER'S OFFICE - Please return signed package to DPIPWE Ministerial Officer for distribution of package material. Do not post/distribute the package.

Ashley Bastock
A/General Manager
AgriGrowth Tasmania

MINISTERIAL UNIT COMMENTS:

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Other Comments:	