

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Outdoor Recreation
Witness:	Mr Graeme Ford, CEO, Game Management Authority
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	Five (5)

Relevant text:

**Danny O'BRIEN:** No, I just gave the GMA's position on that. I did not ask the question about that at all. Maybe I will ask a question of Mr Ford. A number of ducks were placed at 1 Treasury Place by protesters on the same day, Tuesday 2 May, and surrendered to the GMA for post-mortem examination. Can you confirm that X-ray examination could not find any evidence of shot in about 50 per cent of those birds – that is, there was no evidence that they were shot by hunters.

**Graeme FORD:** We will have to take the exact percentage on notice, but you are right: some birds that we X-rayed did not contain shot. Of course, pass-throughs could have occurred. The condition of the birds we did try to examine, but keep in mind this is our own staff. Our researchers – these are not veterinary surgeons – did examine some of the birds by plucking and trying to determine the wound, but the condition of the birds made a definitive diagnosis very, very difficult.

**Answer:**

The Game Management Authority (GMA) retrieved 88 waterbirds left by animal welfare groups at 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, on 2 May 2023.

Based on advice provided to me by the GMA, of the 88 waterbirds presented and examined, 47 (53%) were found to be carrying embedded shotgun pellets and 41 (47%) were not.

In providing me with its advice on this matter, the GMA noted that its assessment of the 88 waterbirds was preliminary and not an exhaustive assessment of the cause of death of these birds. Assessments of radiographs and visual inspections were not conducted by veterinarians. Autopsies conducted by trained and experienced experts would be necessary to determine the actual cause of death.