

**Submission
No 103**

**INQUIRY INTO VICTORIA'S RECREATIONAL NATIVE BIRD HUNTING
ARRANGEMENTS**

Name: Mr Laurence Comerford

Date Received: 28 March 2023

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 March 2023 2:41 PM
To: nativebirdhunting
Subject: Submission to the Inquiry into Victoria's recreational native bird hunting arrangements

Categories: Submission

Is this submission on behalf of an organisation: No

Organisation:

Submitter: Mr Laurence Comerford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Age Group: 75 or older

Submission status: Make my submission public

Your submission: The Inquiry Committee, I do not purport to be an skilled shotgun user hunting wild birds, but I am an experienced and skilled shooter and have over the years hunted all legal game in Victoria. On the one occasion I attended a duck hunt, I was immediately struck with the following: 1) Despite having excellent eyesight there was no way I could identify a flying duck as to species, even after it was full daylight and long after shooting had commenced. In fact shooting commenced when even the silhouettes of flying birds were only visible at close range. As a result of this experience I believe that the laws to protect particular species of duck are not capable of being observed. 2) The number of ducks shot and recovered indicated at least a 25 pack of cartridges was needed per duck for the average shooter. This gives no doubt that the duck shooting season is spreading huge amounts of lead into our wetlands. The lead is not bio-degradable and so simply accumulates in the wetlands where there is no doubt it is toxic to many of the native organisms which live there. The people I was with were experienced duck shooters and were also ethical in the attitude to what they were doing - not even starting to shoot until it was full daylight, yet the above problems still existed. I have also seen others whose attitude was far less respectable and you can be sure that the duck hunting community includes a large number of these. Their expected behaviour could include shooting ducks on the water, shooting anything with feathers, failing to observe if their shot would land safely, abandoning wounded birds because it is too difficult to retrieve them. Normally, I strongly object to laws which are designed to deal with a few "self-centered, community considerations don't apply to me" type people, but which are not enforced on the normal population while hanging over them from a sufficiently officious official, but in this case I believe duck hunting should be banned. Note that this will not stop duck hunting amongst the socially careless, but should reduce it significantly.

Files upload:

Are you interested in appearing before the committee? No

Submission confidentiality: Make my submission public

Reason for requesting confidentiality:

Agreement to terms for submission: Yes

Signature provided: Laurence Comerford