

Hon. David Llewellyn MP  
Attorney General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Energy  
Parliament House  
Hobart 7000

..... / ..... / 2008

Dear Mr Llewellyn,

Native ducks around Australia are being imperilled by your decision to allow a duck shooting season in Tasmania in 2008. Stressed by climatic conditions that have severely restricted available habitat, they are struggling just to stay alive. Many are unable to successfully breed due to a limited choice of suitable nesting sites. With the very dry conditions that are occurring throughout eastern Australia, many waterbirds are unable to survive in areas that were once significant wetland habitats. Many important wetlands are dry or becoming dry across the eastern States.

The drought has affected the mainland of Australia so seriously, so native waterbirds have flown to Tasmania to seek refuge. Flying in both directions across Bass Strait is known to occur for all 'game' species of native ducks. Given the known movement of native ducks during dry times, we can reasonably expect that many of the waterbirds currently in Tasmania are from other parts of the country.

Ornithological experts, like Professor Richard Kingsford, recognise that a shooting season in Tasmania could significantly impact on bird numbers on the mainland. For species like Grey Teal and Mountain Ducks, whose numbers are the lowest on record according to long-term aerial surveys, this could be a death sentence. There is insufficient data from the DPIWE to properly assess how native ducks are faring in Tasmania, particularly given the large numbers being killed each year from duck-shooting. An open season would cause tens of thousands of ducks to be killed this year (based on previous years). This is totally unacceptable.

Decisions we make today will affect native waterbirds for a lifetime. Native ducks across eastern Australia have been in decline for the past 25 years. They are currently severely stressed by drought and climate change all over Australia (including Tasmania). This necessitates that we act cautiously, and in a way that will help ensure the long-term survival of all waterbird species. You are urged to make a responsible decision for native ducks in Tasmania by immediately closing the 2008 duck shooting season.

Yours sincerely,

\*SIGNATURE\* .....

\*NAME\* .....

\*ADDRESS\* .....

.....

.....