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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Environment Minister Acknowledges Value of Hunting

Australian Government recognition of the conservation benefits of hunting is “a step in the right direction,” say the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH).

Responding to a large petition calling upon the Parliament to endorse sustainable wildlife use enacted through practices such as waterfowl harvesting, Environment Minister Peter Garrett acknowledged that the IUCN (World Conservation Union) has passed resolutions stating hunting and conservation are compatible, and that hunting provides an incentive for the conservation of natural areas.

“We welcome Minister Garrett’s long-overdue recognition of international trends in best-practice conservation, including the importance of hunting,” said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

“There is strong public support for sustainable wildlife use in Australia. For example, a recent poll by Victorian newspaper *The Age* found that the majority of respondents, over 5500 people, support the Victorian Government’s declaration of a duck season for 2009.”

“We are pleased that Minister Garrett also acknowledged the economic benefits of hunting. Hunting makes a significant contribution to rural and remote communities and economies, which is especially important in these uncertain economic times.”

“We look forward to seeing increased Government support for hunting.”

Fact sheet:

<http://www.ic-wish.org/WiSH%20Fact%20Sheet%20Hunting%20Conservation%20Economy.pdf>

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