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## **Uncontrolled Cull or Responsible Harvest? Victorian Duck Season**

The actions of Victorian anti-hunting lobbyists opposing a managed duck hunting season have been described by the International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) as “irresponsible”.

“Anti-hunting lobbyists are now claiming that duck hunting should be banned because, in their personal opinion, the sustainable use of wildlife is unethical,” said WiSH chairperson Ms Samara McPhedran.

Ms McPhedran explained that “Philosophical opposition to hunting does not provide justification for advocating the New South Wales model, where a decade-long ban on duck hunting has led to unsustainably high duck numbers and culling without regard for breeding seasons.”

WiSH has called upon anti-hunting lobbyists to set aside their opinion-based agenda and instead acknowledge the importance of evidence-based environmental policy.

Ms McPhedran went on to say that “Crucial ecological concepts are being overlooked and trivialised because of the personal views of a small number of individuals. Scientific surveys must be integrated into decision-making processes to protect the best interests of our unique wetlands.”

“At the end of the day, demanding a situation that is likely to lead to uncontrolled culling holds no benefits for wildlife. An anti-hunting agenda pales in comparison to the wellbeing of our ecosystems and the responsible preservation of waterbirds,” finished Ms McPhedran.

Reference: New Call for Duck Shooting Ban - [www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17457756-29277,00.html](http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,17457756-29277,00.html)

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