

Dear [name],

I want to congratulate you on your recent appointment to the ministry. As you will be aware, it is often the responsibility of the cabinet to inform the Government's direction on social issues. That is why I am writing to you about recreational duck shooting.

The public campaign to end shooting has been running for almost 40 years in Victoria. Polling has consistently shown an estimated 85% of Victorians support a ban on recreational duck shooting - both in the city and country.

Six out of eight 'game' species of native waterbird show long-term population decline and as many as 19 bird species have had more than half of their habitat significantly impacted by the recent bushfires. 58 others have lost over a third.

Numbers of native water birds who are breeding remain very low, with researchers estimating numbers to have fallen by as much as 90% in the last four decades.

Duck shooting has already been banned by Labor Governments in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. Each state did so on cruelty grounds. Victoria's native waterbirds suffer painful and horrific deaths when they become victims of duck shooting. Many birds are wounded but not killed, leaving them to suffer for days, even weeks on end, before succumbing to predators, infection or drowning.

As you will know, a motion to have a review into duck shooting passed the Victorian Labor Party State Conference last year. The review will question whether duck shooting is in line with Labor's positive animal welfare agenda and Animal Welfare Action Plan.

I sincerely hope that you advocate for a permanent end to duck shooting within your new role.

Best regards,