

End to recreational native bird hunting season recommended

A parliamentary inquiry has concluded recreational native bird hunting in Victoria should end as of 2024.

The Legislative Council Select Committee is urging the State Government to end the activity on all public and private land ahead of the upcoming season opening.

“The Committee’s rationale is driven by the considerable environmental evidence of long-term decline in native bird populations, and a worsening outlook as our climate continues to change,” Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

“The Committee was also acutely aware of the animal welfare issues associated with native bird hunting, as well as the amenity loss of large areas of public land to the overwhelming majority of the Victorian public during the hunting season.”

The final report has also made further recommendations including:

- retaining existing exemptions for controlling native bird populations impacting agricultural and other land
- retaining traditional owner hunting rights under existing legislation
- convert existing State Games Reserves into Outdoor Recreation Reserves
- providing extra resources to better control non-native invasive species
- extra protections for Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

The five-month inquiry accepted a record 10,402 public submissions and involved multiple site visits and six days of public hearings.

“I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who took the time to make a submission, to all witnesses who attended public hearings to provide evidence and other stakeholders who gave up their time to escort the Committee on site visits,” Mr Batchelor said.

“Your contribution has greatly helped the Committee in its deliberations and in formulating the report’s final findings and recommendations.”

The full report, hearing transcripts and public submissions are on the [Committee’s website](#).

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