

Activists deliver body blow to start of duck-hunting season

PROTESTERS dumped duck carcasses and used shotgun cartridges outside the office of Premier John Brumby yesterday morning, to oppose the reopening of the duck-shooting season.

Victoria's season runs from March 21 to May 29, with new restrictions, after a ban on duck hunting for the past two years.

But wildlife activists are furious the ban has been lifted, saying it is unsustainable because of the rapidly decreasing bird numbers and climate change.

About 170 protesters outnumbered shooters at a state game reserve near Sale, 215 kilometres east of Melbourne, at the start of the season at the weekend.

Coalition Against Duck Shooting spokesman Laurie Levy, with two other protesters, yesterday placed the carcasses collected at the weekend outside Mr Brumby's office.

"It's about time John Brumby followed the example set by three other states led by Labor premiers (Western Australia, NSW and Queensland) and banned the recreational shooting of native waterbirds," Mr Levy said at the protest. He said waterbird numbers were down 60 per cent on last year.

AAP



Duck carcasses and used cartridges were deposited outside the Premier's office yesterday in protest against the opening of duck-shooting season.

PICTURE: WAYNE TAYLOR