

Finding No. XXXX
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MAJORITY OF VICTORIANS WANT DUCK SHOOTING BANNED

A large majority of Victorians (75%) think that the shooting of native water birds for recreational purposes should be banned in Victoria. Twenty percent think it should not be banned, and 5% are undecided, a survey conducted by Roy Morgan Research has found.

When informed that due to drought and climate change, the numbers of native water birds across eastern Australia have dropped by over 80%, that at least one in four native water birds shot at are wounded, and that duck shooting has been banned in WA, NSW and Queensland, the proportion of Victorians who want to see the activity banned increases to 87%. Then just 10% of Victorians think it should not be banned, and 3% remain undecided.

With the State Government soon to decide whether the 2008 duck shooting season will proceed, analysis by State voting intention shows that almost all supporters of The Greens (98%) support a ban on the shooting of native water birds. Large majorities of ALP supporters (87%) and supporters of Other Parties/Independent Candidates (84%) and L-NP supporters (83%) also want to see the activity banned.

Those living in Melbourne (91%) were more likely than those in country areas to think the shooting of native water birds should be banned, but even in country areas an overwhelming majority (77%) think the activity should be banned.

The survey was conducted amongst a representative cross-sectional sample of 637 Victorians aged 14 years and over to between October 3 and 27, 2007.

This survey was conducted by Roy Morgan Research on behalf of the Coalition Against Duck Shooting and Voiceless.

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Analysis By Sex, Age and Area

Respondents were first asked: *“In your opinion, should the shooting of native water birds for recreational purposes be banned in Victoria?”*

Those who initially thought the shooting of native water birds should not be banned in Victoria, or who were undecided (25%) were told: *“You may or may not be aware that due to drought and climate change, the numbers of native water birds across eastern Australia have dropped by over 80%, that at least one in four native water birds shot at, are wounded, and that duck shooting has been banned in WA, NSW and Queensland.”* These respondents were then asked *“Knowing that, do you believe the recreational shooting of native water birds in Victoria should be banned, or not?”*

Women (94%) were more likely than men (81%) to say the shooting of native water birds should be banned. Support for banning this activity was highest amongst younger people (14-17 year olds – 91%) and lowest amongst those aged 35-49 (86%). People living in Melbourne (91%) were more likely than those living in country areas (77%) to favour banning the shooting of native water birds.

	SEX			AGE					AREA	
	Total Respondents (637) %	Men (306) %	Women (331) %	14-17 (40) %	18-24 (69) %	25-34 (111) %	35-49 (172) %	50+ (245) %	Melbourne (453) %	Vic X-City (184) %
Initially thought should be banned	75	67	83	80	74	76	71	77	80	63
TOTAL think should be banned	87	81	94	91	88	89	86	87	91	77
Should not be banned	10	15	5	7	12	10	11	10	7	19
Can't Say	3	4	1	2	-	1	3	3	2	4

Base: Total Respondents

Analysis by State Voting Intention showed a difference in attitude of supporters of the major parties in relation to the issue of recreational shooting of native water birds - 87% of ALP supporters felt the activity should be banned, compared with 83% L-NP supporters,. Greens supporters (98%) were most strongly in favour of banning the activity.

Analysis By State Voting Intention

	Total Electors (545) %	ALP (269) %	L-NP (184) %	The Greens (45) %	Other Parties / Independent Candidates (19) %	Can't Say / Refused (28) %
Initially thought should be banned	76	74	74	89	78	79
TOTAL think should be banned	87	87	83	98	84	97
Should not be banned	11	11	14	2	11	3
Can't Say	2	2	3	-	5	-

Base: Total Electors