

Adelaide, Tuesday, March 21, 1989

OPINION

Bool Lagoon should be a true sanctuary

OPPPOSITION to duck shooting in Australia is rising.

What was once the concern mainly of animal liberation groups of varying degrees of extremism is now much more widespread.

Inevitably there is some overlap with the gun control lobby.

But there is an increasing number of people in the community who see nothing wrong with, for instance, farmers having guns to control vermin, and everything wrong with the annual duck slaughter.

This has been most apparent in recent days in the eastern States where the start of the duck season brought protests and actual confrontation between the hunters and the conservationists.

But there is a particularly SA focus to the spreading concern.

It is Bool Lagoon near Naracoorte in the South-East.

To many people it seems bizarre and repugnant that the National Parks and Wildlife Service should spend most of the year looking after the birds only to stand by and watch as the hunters move in to kill them.

It is known there is opposition to the duck slaughter in the Bannon Government.

The Premier could win himself many friends by listening to the arguments and, indeed, perhaps by listening to his feelings.

There is the soundest case for closing Bool Lagoon to duck hunters and for making it truly a sanctuary.

If there is any doubt about the merits of this proposal let it be done for a trial period of, say, two years while a careful assessment is made of the effects.