

OPINION

A nice reform rises in the west

IT CAN be done. The lives of many Australians have been brightened today.

The best side of the conservation cause has had a nice win.

The Premier of Western Australia, Dr Lawrence, has announced a permanent ban on duck shooting.

The first thing to be said is that, at a stroke, it justifies having a woman in such a job.

Perhaps the observation is sexist but women really do tend to be more compassionate in these matters while the men posture and adopt nonsensical values.

But Dr Lawrence and her colleagues will doubtless feel the wrath of the shooters.

The customary spurious arguments about bird populations will get a last hurrah.

But the deed is done and the birds will fly free.

So why are we waiting?

Why does the Bannan Government refuse to act?

Why do its members say privately that they oppose hunting but then refuse to act?

This is an issue which can no longer be ignored or fobbed off to some contrived committee.

WA has given a lead in the kind of reform which once characterised this State.

The least we can do is to follow Dr Lawrence's lead.

If the men with the guns must shoot at something (and that is another large issue) then let it be circular targets or clay pigeons.

