



Hon Tammy Franks MLC  
Greens SA Parliamentary Co-Leader  
[Franks.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:Franks.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au)

**Office of the Chief Executive**

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Adelaide

GPO Box 1047  
Adelaide SA 5001  
Australia

Ph: +61 8 8204 9000

[www.environment.sa.gov.au](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au)

Dear Ms Franks

I refer to your application pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) received by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 16 February 2023, seeking access to:

*“All communications from March 20, 2022 to the present, between the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Water and any of the below listed organisations and individuals;*

- *Conservation and Hunting Alliance of SA (CHASA)*
- *Mr. Tony Sharley*
- *Hellenic Shooting Sports of SA*
- *Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, South Australia.*

*Timeframe: 20/03/2022 to 16/02/2023.”*

The determination was due to be completed and forwarded to you by the statutory due date of 20 March 2023. Section 19(2a) of the FOI Act permits a determination to be made after the statutory due date has lapsed, and this course of action was pursued.

## **DETERMINATION**

Searches of the department’s records have found 13 documents held by this agency within scope of your request.

On 17 February 2023 you were advised that signatures would be excluded from the release information; this course of action was taken in relation to documents numbered 2.1 and 5.1.1.

As DEW Accredited Freedom of Information Officer I have determined to grant you full access to 10 documents and partial access to 3 documents.

Section 20 of the FOI Act provides that an agency may refuse access to a document or parts of a document if it contains information that meets merits for exemption under the Act. The documents, or parts of the documents to which I am refusing access and the reasons for the refusal are summarised in the attached document schedule (Attachment 1), the relevant exemption clauses used are detailed in Attachment 2, while the released documents form Attachment 3.

The determination is provided to you electronically.

In accordance with [PC045 – Disclosure logs for Non-personal information](#) once a determination has been provided, the agency is required to make available on our website information and documents that have been disclosed. Information will be published online at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/freedom-of-information/foi-disclosure-log>.

## **FEES AND CHARGES**

Pursuant to section 53(2)(b) of the FOI Act and Regulation 6 of the *Freedom of Information (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2018* a determination is provided to Members of Parliament (MP) without charge in instances where the work generated by the applicant does not exceed the \$1000 threshold. There is no charge for processing this application.

## **YOUR APPEAL RIGHTS**

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights to internal review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation, by completing the attached 'FOI Application Form – For Internal Review of a Determination'. If you decide to apply to exercise your rights to review, the completed form at Attachment 3 must be returned within 30 days to:

Chief Executive (Principal Officer FOI)  
Department for Environment and Water  
GPO Box 1047  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
E: [dew.foi@sa.gov.au](mailto:dew.foi@sa.gov.au)

Should an FOI applicant believe an agency has failed to identify all of the documents within the scope of their FOI application, complaints about sufficiency of searches can be raised with the Ombudsman SA by visiting [www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au](http://www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au). You will see that the Ombudsman's office asks that at first instance, concerns about adequacy of search should be sent to the agency for consideration and response. Should your office not be satisfied with the response you will then be able to progress the matter with the Ombudsman SA's office.

If you have any queries in relation to the above please contact a Freedom of Information Officer on telephone (08) 8463 6625 or email [DEW.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.FOI@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**MARTHA SAVVA**

Accredited FOI Officer, Department for Environment and Water

09 / 05 / 2023

Encl:     1. Document Schedule  
          2. Exemption Clause used.  
          3. Release documents  
          4. Rights to review factsheet  
          5. Sufficiency of search factsheet

**Freedom of Information application: DEW23/013 Hon Tammy Franks MLC**



Government of South Australia  
Department for Environment  
and Water

*"All communications from March 20, 2022 to the present, between the Chief Executive of the Department of Environment and Water and any of the below listed organisations and individuals;*

- *Conservation and Hunting Alliance of SA (CHASA)*
- *Mr. Tony Sharley*
- *Hellenic Shooting Sports of SA*
- *Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, South Australia.*

*Timeframe: 20/03/2022 to 16/02/2023."*

Doc No.	Date	Author	Document description	Determination	Clause	Reason
1	22/10/2022	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Email	Partial Release	6(1) - Documents affecting personal affairs	Redacted personal email addresses of individuals.
2	2/12/2022	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Email	Full Release		
2.1	2/12/2022	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Letter	Full Release		<i>Signature redacted as stated in FOI acknowledgement email dated 17.02.2023.</i>
3	21/12/2022	DEW - Office of the Chief Executive	Email	Full Release		
3.1	21/12/2022	DEW - J Schutz	Email	Partial Release	6(1) - Documents affecting personal affairs	Redacted personal email addresses of individuals.
3.2	21/12/2022	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Information sharing	Full Release		
4	11/01/2023	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Email	Partial Release	6(1) - Documents affecting personal affairs	Redacted personal email addresses of individuals.
5	24/01/2023	DEW - Office of the Chief Executive	Email	Full Release		
5.1	24/01/2023	DEW - Office of the Chief Executive	Email	Full Release		
5.1.1	24/01/2023	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Letter	Full Release		<i>Signature redacted as stated in FOI acknowledgement email dated 17.02.2023.</i>
5.1.2	24/01/2023	Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia Inc. (CHASA)	Information sharing	Full Release		
6	9/02/2023	DEW - J Schutz	Email	Full Release		
6.1	9/02/2023	DEW - J Schutz	Letter	Full Release		

## **Schedule 1—Exempt documents**

### **Part 1—Restricted documents**

#### **6—Documents affecting personal affairs**

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).
- (2) A document is an exempt document if it contains allegations or suggestions of criminal or other improper conduct on the part of a person (living or dead) the truth of which has not been established by judicial process and the disclosure of which would be unreasonable.
- (3) A document is not an exempt document by virtue of subclause (1) or (2) merely because it contains information concerning the person by or on whose behalf an application for access to the document is made.
- (3a) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—
  - (a) consisting of information concerning a person who is presently under the age of 18 years or suffering from mental illness, impairment or infirmity or concerning such a person's family or circumstances, or information of any kind furnished by a person who was under that age or suffering from mental illness, impairment or infirmity when the information was furnished; and
  - (b) the disclosure of which would be unreasonable having regard to the need to protect that person's welfare.

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**From:** Graham Stopp 6 - Documents affecting personal @gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 October, 2022 11:24 AM  
**To:** Williams, Mike (DEW); Loan, Lisien (DEW); 6 - Document; George Kontopolas; Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Cc:** Julian Robertson; Nicola Centofanti; Todd Wallace; Liz Rymill  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bow hunting Training

Hi Mike

On the Bow Hunting subject, this is what happens in NSW. Link below.

We are working with them already for our Hunter Training program. Happy to talk more in consultation discussions to be held.

Implementing training may be an option to consider instead of banning.

Thanks  
Graham

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robert West 6 - Documents affecting personal @gmail.com>  
**Date:** 21 October 2022 at 6:14:52 pm ACDT  
**To:** Graham Stopp 6 - Documents affecting personal @gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Bow hunting Training

[NSW DPI Bow Hunting Training](#)

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**From:** secretary@chasa.org.au  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 December, 2022 9:20 AM  
**To:** Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Subject:** 12th CHASA Wine and Wild Food Dinner Thank you Letter  
**Attachments:** Thank you Letter John Schutz.docx

Hi John

Please see the attached thank you letter.

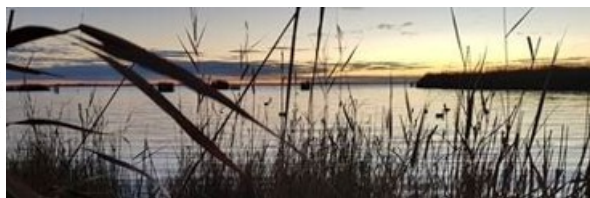
Regards

Vicki Fabris

Secretary

E: [secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:secretary@chasa.org.au) PH: 0419161968

[Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia](http://www.chasa.org.au)





**Wild Food Is Healthy**

# CHASA

President: Graham Stopp T: 0417 358 500 email: [President@chasa.org.au](mailto:President@chasa.org.au)  
 Secretary: Vicki Fabris T: 0419 161 968 email: [Secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:Secretary@chasa.org.au)  
 PO Box 233 Millicent SA 5280, web: [www.chasa.org.au](http://www.chasa.org.au)

30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Mr John Schutz  
 Chief Executive  
 Department of Environment and Water  
 GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear John,

Thank you for your encouraging words at the 12<sup>th</sup> CHASA Wine and Wild Food Dinner on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October and I sincerely enjoyed our conversations on the night.

CHASA was delighted that your family and so many of your colleagues were able to be present to enjoy the dinner with our member organisations and friends.

Your speech reflected on a significant partnership that has been created by DEW and CHASA starting with your leadership and our recent president Tony Sharley, and it is exciting to imagine what our partnership can achieve — when hearing of the achievements of 30 years of Operation Bounceback as outlined by Jason Irving's excellent presentation.

As I write this I am encouraged by the thought that DEW and CHASA could discuss the establishment of new Bounceback programs in the Riverland and South-east where we could upscale the concept of a land-stewardship agreement as outlined in the CHASA DEW MoU.

I look forward to continuing our productive and strategic working relationship to achieve sustainable hunting and conservation outcomes for South Australia.

Yours sincerely

Signature  
 redacted

Graham Stopp  
 CHASA President

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## MEMBER/AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

South Australian Field and Game Association (SAFGA), Sporting Shooters Association of Australia - SA,  
 Hellenic Shooting Sports Association of South Australia, Quail Tomorrow, Working Gun Dogs of SA,  
 Sporting Shooters Association of Australia – Conservation and Wildlife Management,  
 Riverland Field and Game, South-East Branch of SAFGA, Artemis Conservation & Hunting Inc.  
 Lake Bonney Sporting Clays, SA Sporting Guns, SA Deer Control

**From:** DEW:Correspondence OCE  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 December, 2022 1:27 PM  
**To:** DEW:Correspondence NP&WS  
**Subject:** OCE REQUEST - DEW-D0020349  
**Attachments:** FW: CHASA Recommendations in response to DEW Position on 2023 Duck and Quail Seasons

## OFFICIAL

Hi,

Please see below link to action this request.

Regards,

**Vince**

Senior Correspondence Officer, Office of the Chief Executive

Department for Environment and Water  
 P (08) 8204 9320  
 81-95 Waymouth Street  
 ADELAIDE SA 5000  
[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)



**SOUTH**  
AUSTRALIA



**Government of South Australia**  
 Department for Environment  
 and Water

*Helping South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper*

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRIEFING REQUEST	
<b>HCRMS Reference Number:</b>	<a href="#">DEW-D0020349</a>
<b>Subject:</b>	Tony Sharley - CHASA - Duck and Quail Seasons
<b>Action Required:</b>	For consideration
<b>Notes:</b>	Refer attached email
<b>Due Date – CE's Office:</b>	NA
<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au">DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au</a>

PLEASE EMAIL EXTENSION REQUESTS TO [DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au)



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**From:** Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 December, 2022 1:17 PM  
**To:** Tripodi, Vince (DEW)  
**Cc:** Williams, Mike (DEW); Loan, Lisien (DEW)  
**Subject:** FW: CHASA Recommendations in response to DEW Position on 2023 Duck and Quail Seasons  
**Attachments:** CHASA Recommendations 2022.pdf

**OFFICIAL**

Vince, please log, acknowledge and assign to NPWS for their consideration.

Mike, Lisien, I would hope that the issues covered in the attached correspondence from Tony Sharley were raised and discussed at the reference group meeting with CHASA et al earlier in the week.

Regards

John

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**From:** 6 - Documents @gmail.com 6 - Documents @gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 December 2022 12:26 PM  
**To:** Schutz, John (DEW) <John.Schutz@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** 6 - Documents @gmail.com  
**Subject:** CHASA Recommendations in response to DEW Position on 2023 Duck and Quail Seasons

Hi John,

On behalf of the CHASA delegates, CHASA provides further information and adapted recommendations to assist DEW in preparing recommendations to the Minister.

Our information is based on our thoughts on the DEW position on the 2023 duck and quail seasons as communicated by PC045 REDACTION and Lisien Loan, which was not discussed at the Stakeholder Meeting

We trust that the 2023 season settings reflect the significant improvements in waterfowl and quail habitats in 2022.

Great to see you at the CHASA dinner

Kind regards

Tony

**Tony Sharley, B.Sc., MSc., GAICD**  
**Scientific Officer**  
**Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia**  
**E:** 6 - Documents @gmail.com; **M:** 0418 808475



**Further information to assist DEW in preparing a briefing package for the Minister, based on the Duck & Quail Hunting Season Stakeholder Reference Panel meeting on 19/12/2022**

**Prepared by CHASA Delegates**

**Graham Stopp, Rob West, Matt Godson, Tony Sharley, Tom Vartzokas, Mark Fabris**

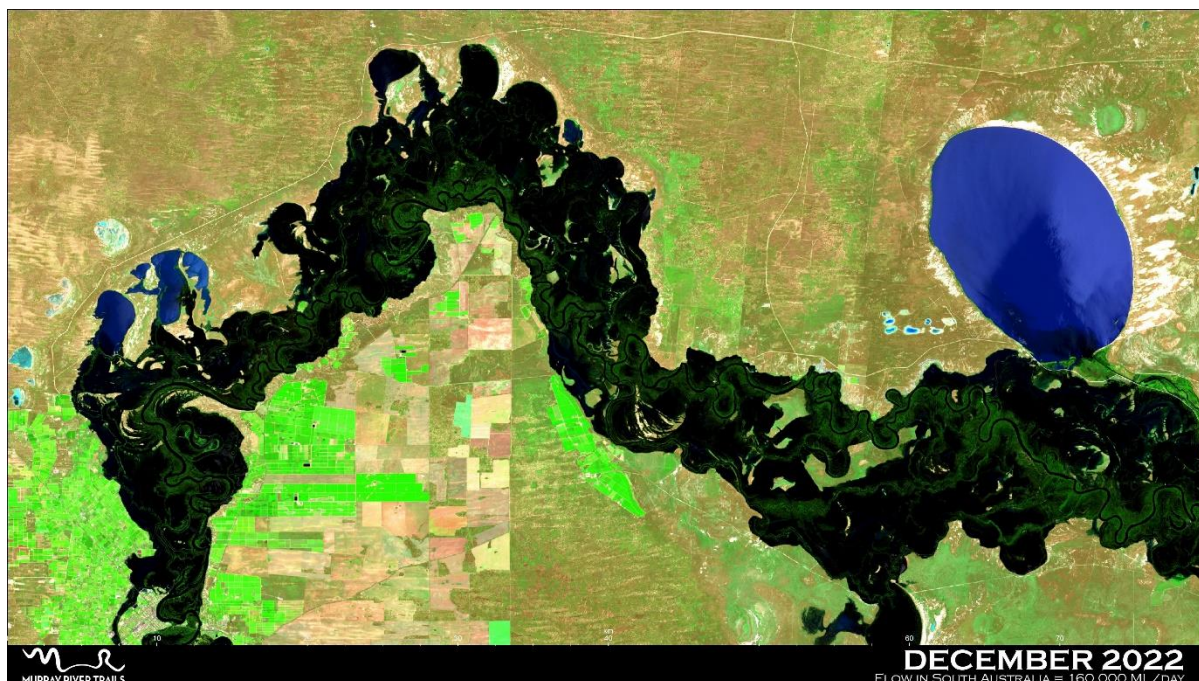


Photo. Satellite image showing Murray River flooding at the South Australian Victorian border region.

## **Background**

The Department for Environment and Water has prepared a comprehensive resource on which to develop recommendations for declaring sustainable duck and quail hunting seasons in 2023. CHASA and SSAA has contributed to that resource.

CHASA delegates participated in Stage 5 — the Duck and Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel Meeting (Stakeholder Meeting) held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

At the Stakeholder Meeting, CHASA had limited opportunity to discuss the DEW position on the 2023 Duck and Quail Seasons.

CHASA understands that Stage 6 involves DEW preparing a Ministerial briefing package based on the statement of outcomes and post-meeting DEW discussions.

CHASA submits the following comments on the DEW position and makes the following recommendations including several alternative recommendations to those made at the Stakeholder Meeting.

## Recommendations (Waterfowl Season 2023)

The DEW position indicated that the data supported an 8-bird bag due to the increase in habitat and breeding conditions, however, DEW is concerned about the long term population decline in species.

CHASA recommended a Full Season with a 12-bird bag, based on:

1. The significant increase in surface water coverage and greenness throughout Southeastern Australia in 2022, following above average rainfall in 2021 that has produced widespread flooding and a significant waterfowl breeding response measured by the 2022 EAWS in South-eastern Australia.
2. A 12-bird bag in 2023 represents an increase from an 8-bird bag in 2022 due to the improved habitat conditions and breeding index (EAWS) from 2021 to 2022.
3. Four of the six metrics for setting a waterfowl season in 2023 were at their highest level (**Appendix 1**), and the 2 metrics that were low were easily explained because low waterfowl counts are due to the widespread dispersal of waterfowl away from permanent wetlands in South Australia to flooded catchments in the Murray Darling Basin and the adjacent Cooper Basin.
4. The 2022 metrics of SA Waterfowl Abundance (Ground, SA Aerial) and Total Waterfowl abundance (EAWS) were low, just as they were when flooding occurred in the Murray Darling Basin in 2010 and 2016. Grey Teal which are the most abundant and widespread species of waterfowl in Australia, were the main species contributing to low abundance in all three flood years, and hence the low counts can be easily explained and can be expected to bounce back when Grey Teal return as ephemeral wetlands dry up in the inland regions of Australia (**Appendix 2**).
5. Grey Teal composition in the hunter bag (CHASA Bag Survey 2022) was also lower in 2021 and 2022 compared to previous years, reflecting the dispersal of Grey Teal to floodwaters in the Murray Darling Basin (**Appendix 3**).
6. The long-term decline in waterfowl species abundance is based on one count at the same time every year along a fixed transect survey (EAWS) over 40 years, not an absolute estimate of populations in Australia. The declining trend is not an indication of hunting impact, rather an indication of habitat availability and rainfall decline in inland Australia at the time of surveying ducks in November each year.
7. The national waterbird survey of 2008 (Kingsford et al 2012) and further regional surveys in 2021 indicate that continental population of waterfowl (6 to 10 million birds) is not impacted by sustainable harvests resulting from DEW season setting limits, based on total seasonal harvest of waterfowl being significantly less than 10% of total population estimates (**Appendix 4**).
8. CHASA acknowledges that in the absence of an independent assessment of the national waterfowl population, long term waterfowl species decline creates uncertainty around the impact of hunting offtake on viable population thresholds.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 1** — CHASA will support an R2 Season (8 bird bag) on the basis that DEW obtain an independent assessment of the national waterfowl population to inform the 2024 season setting process.

**The DEW position supported all game species in the bag except Australasian Shoveler.**

**CHASA also recommended that all game species except Australasian Shoveler be in the bag, based on:**

1. The seven-year continuous Hunter Bag Survey by CHASA (2015 to 2022) demonstrates that 90% of the harvest will be made up of the four most abundant waterfowl species, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, and Wood Duck, and a further 3% to 8% Australian Shelduck, resulting in no risk to the highly nomadic species Hardhead and Pink-eared Duck that may or may not return to South Australian wetlands during the hunting season.

**The DEW position indicated that it supported a mid-March opening and a June 25<sup>th</sup> closing.**

**CHASA recommended a mid-February opening and a June 25<sup>th</sup> closing, based on:**

1. A mid-February opening allows hunters in the South-east to access waterbodies before they dry out. This has been a consideration for decades to ensure that all hunters can hunt in the South-east when wetlands are low and drying, as is the case in 2022/23.
2. CHASA is concerned that a mid-March opening will coincide with the Victorian Opening which will reduce travel by Victorians into South Australia for season opening. This will reduce economic benefit to towns near the SA/Victorian border in both the South-east and the Riverland.
3. Hence, the season opening must demonstrate consideration of hunter access to wetlands in the South-east, and the economy.
4. The CHASA delegate from the South-east has advised that based on regional conditions, season opening could be as late as the 25 Feb/4 March.
5. DEW comments have been made that an early opening in Mid-February may coincide with late breeding of waterfowl due to flooding, as the reason for moving the opening to mid-March. However, CHASA experience is that there is no evidence of hunting juvenile birds that cannot fly.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 2** — CHASA recommends a season opening on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and not coinciding with the Victorian season opening.

## **Recommendations (Quail Season 2023)**

The DEW position indicated support for a quail season in 2023, although a bag limit was not stated, nor opening and closing dates.

**CHASA recommended a quail season opening on the same weekend as the waterfowl season (mid-February) and closing on 27 August 2023, with a 25-bird bag limit, based on:**

1. Significant inland rainfall and improvement in the greenness index during 2022, indicating excellent conditions for quail breeding.
2. Matt Godson (CHASA delegate) advised that pre-season population estimates are not available due to late commencement of cereal harvest across SA, however, the results of the 2021 pre-season survey (M. Godson, December 2021) followed by improved conditions in 2022 indicate that population estimates should exceed those of 2021.
3. The SSAA survey of 2021 sampled over 16,024 birds throughout cropping regions of South Australia, demonstrating regional abundance correlated to antecedent rainfall, and a total population of between 6,201,992– 17,803,220 individuals, indicating that season harvest represents 0.04% of the estimated population, which is vanishingly small compared with internationally accepted harvest rates of 10-20% of the population (M. Godson, December 2021).
4. The Victorian Quail survey (Arthur Rylah Institute 2021) clearly shows that hunting 170,000 quail in Victoria in 2022 was sustainable (less than 10% of 3 million population), and South Australia harvested significantly less than this in an area with significantly more quail habitat.
5. The closing date enables hunters to work dogs in the cooler months of the season and in months where there is no published evidence nor field experience to indicate breeding.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 4** — quail season opening on the same weekend as the waterfowl season and closing on 27 August 2023, with a 25 bird bag limit.



## Appendix 1. 2023 waterfowl season setting matrix using 2022 data from several sources that indicate waterfowl abundance and habitat condition.

Note that the 2022 conditions are most similar to 2010 and 2016 which were also flood years in the Murray Darling Basin.

2022\_DQOSSRP\_V1\_for\_panel\_reduced.pdf

File | C:/Users/Customer/Documents/CHASA%20TEMPORARY/2023%20SEASON%20SETTING/2022\_DQOSSRP\_V1\_for\_panel\_reduced.pdf

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	SA waterfowl abundance Ground(SA Aerial)	SA wetland status (% wetlands in the range 2-5)	SA River Murray inflows (6 GL/day = entitlement flow)	Total waterfowl abundance (EAWS)	Number of all Waterbird species breeding (EAWS)	Breeding index all species (EAWS)	Season Status
2022	12,028 (9,975)	85%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	48,748	21	60,580	
2021	23,627 (26,929)	79%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	49,704	9	2494	2022 Season Open R2
2020	17,272 (17,874)	78%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	91,230	3	364	2021 Season Open R3
2019	23,954 (72,677)	86%	Below entitlement - most managed wetlands watered	118,761	6	1,987	2020 Season Open R3
2018	83,114 (149,363)	89%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	101,185	2	<625	2019 Season Open R2
2017	49,983 (373,681)	93%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	150,642	6*	315	2018 Season Open R1
2016	10,709 (8,852)	93%	Above Entitlement flow - average local breeding	9,408	~21*	~25,000*	2017 Season Open R1
2015	59,117	56%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	66,266	0	0	2016 Season Open R3
2014	171,277	66%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	128,671	1	12	2015 Season open R1
2013	115,337 (162,144)	97%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	96,850	4	212	2014 Season open R1
2012	175,085	84%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	428,179	9	2,402	2013 Season open FULL
2011	135,844 (179,638)	97%	Entitlement flow - all managed wetlands watered	630,470	23	3,373	2012 Season open FULL
2010	13,899	92%	Entitlement flow - all managed wetlands watered	93,300	22	61,243	2011 Season open FULL
2009	60,612	88%	Below entitlement - most managed wetlands watered	172,253	7	599	2010 Season open R3
2008	36,506	68%	Below entitlement flow - limited watering of icon sites	136,657	5	725	2009 Season open R3
2007	35,685	40%	Below entitlement flow - main channel flow only	68,549	2	469	2008 Season closed

6:55 AM  
21/12/2022

## Appendix 2. Game duck abundance in the SA 100 Wetland Survey.

Note the low numbers of Grey Teal coinciding with flood years 2010, 2016 and 2021 and 2022, and the population increase in years following those floods. There was no increase in 2022 because flooding that started in 2021 has continued to increase in 2022 to a record flood year in the Murray Darling Basin.

2022\_DQOSSRP\_V1\_for\_panel\_reduced.pdf

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### Game duck abundance

Year	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Black Duck	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	Blue-winged Shoveler	Hard Head	Pink-eared Duck	Totals
2003	43,948	3,177	2,801	1,389	1,102	1,428	8,126	16,946	78,917
2004	39,789	2,746	3,038	801	3,869	2,118	4,673	6,762	63,796
2005	27,339	1,848	7,824	522	4,583	1,956	3,190	1,292	48,554
2006	22,881	2,078	2,096	441	4,216	1,178	1,520	3,396	37,806
2007	22,594	2,055	1,709	501	4,537	908	1,792	1,589	35,685
2008	25,031	2,398	1,724	819	3,129	1,518	1,093	794	36,506
2009	39,626	3,232	2,955	724	3,539	1,364	7,084	2,088	60,612
2010	3,801	826	1,733	1,051	5,609	86	760	33	13,899
2011	86,256	7,341	3,689	1,661	5,482	715	26,342	4,358	135,844
2012	127,695	5,734	5,311	1,686	11,422	2,331	13,434	7,472	175,085
2013	89,105	2,658	689	627	2,052	4,419	8,435	7,353	115,337
2014	130,353	5,084	2,982	613	10,730	2,634	2,967	15,915	171,277
2015	28,392	7,630	1,243	464	7,251	6,374	2,277	5,487	59,117
2016	2,200	401	997	724	6,112	87	83	107	10,709
2017	34,009	5,776	2,324	841	1,692	171	3,636	1,535	49,983
2018	54,665	11,946	3,839	672	3,082	2,076	3,809	3,028	83,114
2019	15,151	2,818	2,283	395	955	438	1,341	572	23,954
2020	4,845	1,656	2,797	375	6,478	134	809	178	17,272
2021	7,715	1,900	3,748	1,172	4,331	73	1,815	2,873	23,627
2022	4,703	1,193	2,268	841	2,876	7	21	119	12,028
Average	40,505	3,625	2,803	816	4,652	1,501	4,660	4,095	62,656

Not for distribution outside DQOSSRP

7:24 AM 21/12/2022



**Appendix 3. The proportion of Game duck species in the hunters bag each season (2015 to 2022)**



## Duck harvests in SA (2015 to 2022)

Black Duck dominate bag in 2021 and 2022 (51% to 44%)

Grey Teal dominate bag 2015 to 2019 (44% to 51%)

Black Duck and Grey Teal make up 67-84% of game duck harvest every season

Relatively low Grey Teal % in 2021 and 2022 reflects low bird density, dispersal inland

GAME SPECIES	2022 % of bag	2021 % of bag	2020 No survey	2019 % of bag	2018 % of bag	2017 % of bag	2016 % of bag	2015 % of bag
Black Duck	44%	51%		27%	29%	32%	27%	37%
Grey Teal	23%	29%		51%	47%	44%	48%	47%
Chestnut Teal	2%	4%		6%	3%	4%	5%	2%
Wood Duck	22%	10%		6%	7%	10%	10%	7%
Mountain Duck	8%	5%		3%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Pink-eared Duck	<1%	NIB		6%	9%	6%	6%	3%
Hardhead	<1%	NIB		0.2%	0.9%	Not in bag	Not in bag	Not in bag
Mean daily bag	4.00	2.62		5.92 (2.42)	8.35 (3.91)	6.93	3.85	6
Bag Limit	8	4	4	8	12	10	5	10

#### **Appendix 4. Estimates of the national population of game ducks in Australia**

The estimated total population of game ducks in Australia naturally fluctuates from year to year as habitat and breeding conditions fluctuate.

Various regional and national waterfowl surveys indicate that the total population of waterfowl is in the millions ranging between 6 and 14 million game ducks.

The EAWS 2022 resulted in 49,527 game ducks counted on 326,769 ha of wetlands, resulting in a density of 0.15 birds per hectare, indicating a population across the survey area of 2.88 million birds.

Improved habitat conditions and a significant increase in waterbird breeding index (EAWS 2022) demonstrate that the national waterfowl population will increase significantly in 2023.

**Table 1. Extrapolated population estimates of game duck species in large regions of Australia.**

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Game ducks/ha</b>	<b>Regional area</b>	<b>Estimated population game ducks</b>
National Waterbird Survey 2008	0.325	32 million ha of wetland	10.4 million
EAWS 2021	0.33	19 million ha of wetlands	6.34 million
<b>EAWS 2022</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>19 million ha of wetlands</b>	<b>2.88 million</b>
Victorian Game Survey 2021		825 wetlands	2.9 million
Riverina NSW 2021		80,586 sq km	1.15 million
Murray Darling Basin		1.061,000 sq km	14 million (extrapolated from Riverina NSW 2021)

The annual offtake of ducks in South Australia (12,000 to 80,000 game ducks, CHASA 2015 to 2022) is more than 2 orders of magnitude less than estimates of the total population and is therefore not significant, and well below conservative game management harvest of 20% of the population.

Duck hunting is sustainable – posing no risk to the populations of each game duck species.

---

**From:** Graham Stopp 6 - Documents [REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 January, 2023 12:54 PM  
**To:** Williams, Mike (DEW); Loan, Lisien (DEW); PC045 [REDACTED] (DEW); Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Cc:** David Speirs; Nicola Centofanti; 6 - [REDACTED]; George Kontopoulos  
**Subject:** Quail are Breeding Document

Hi all  
Hope you had a great Christmas and New Year.

A local Farmer sent this to show we have Quail breeding everywhere.

Thanks  
Graham



Sent from my iPhone

**From:** DEW:Correspondence OCE  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January, 2023 10:03 AM  
**To:** DEW:Correspondence NP&WS  
**Subject:** OCE REQUEST - DEW-D0020598  
**Attachments:** FW: 2023 Duck and Quail Hunting Seasons

**OFFICIAL**

Hi,

Please see below link to action this request.

Regards,

**Vince**

Senior Correspondence Officer, Office of the Chief Executive

Department for Environment and Water  
 P (08) 8204 9320  
 81-95 Waymouth Street  
 ADELAIDE SA 5000  
[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)



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AUSTRALIA



**Government of South Australia**  
 Department for Environment  
 and Water

*Helping South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper*

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRIEFING REQUEST	
<b>HCRMS Reference Number:</b>	<a href="#">DEW-D0020598</a>
<b>Subject:</b>	Graham Stopp - CHASA - 2023 Duck and Quail hunting seasons
<b>Action Required:</b>	For a draft response
<b>Notes:</b>	Refer attached email
<b>Due Date – CE's Office:</b>	07/02/2023
<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au">DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au</a>

PLEASE EMAIL EXTENSION REQUESTS TO [DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEWCorrespondenceOCE@sa.gov.au)

**From:** Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 January, 2023 9:10 AM  
**To:** DEW:Correspondence OCE  
**Cc:** Schutz, John (DEW)  
**Subject:** FW: 2023 Duck and Quail Hunting Seasons  
**Attachments:** CHASA Recommendations 2022.pdf; Letter to John Schutz 16 Jan 2023.docx

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Vince

Please log and send to NPWS for draft response.

Thank you

**Vicki Barber**

Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive

Department for Environment and Water

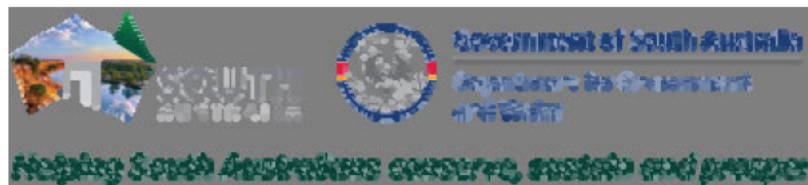
P (08) 8204 9323 Mobile: 0448 720 382

[vicki.barber2@sa.gov.au](mailto:vicki.barber2@sa.gov.au)

81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide

Postal: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide 5001

**[environment.sa.gov.au](http://environment.sa.gov.au)**



The Department for Environment and Water acknowledges Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to their Country.

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**From:** [secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:secretary@chasa.org.au) <[secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:secretary@chasa.org.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, 23 January 2023 7:15 PM

**To:** Schutz, John (DEW) <[john.schutz@sa.gov.au](mailto:john.schutz@sa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** 2023 Duck and Quail Hunting Seasons

You don't often get email from [secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:secretary@chasa.org.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi John

Please see the attached letter from Graham Stopp, President of CHASA.

Regards

**Vicki Fabris**  
**Secretary**



E: [secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:secretary@chasa.org.au) PH: 0419161968

[Conservation & Hunting Alliance of South Australia](#)





**Wild Food Is Healthy**

# CHASA

President: Graham Stopp T: 0417 358 500 email: [President@chasa.org.au](mailto:President@chasa.org.au)

Secretary: Vicki Fabris T: 0419 161 968 email: [Secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:Secretary@chasa.org.au)

PO Box 3137, Aberfoyle Park SA 5159, web: [www.chasa.org.au](http://www.chasa.org.au)

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Mr John Schutz

Chief Executive

Department of Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear John,

The Gazettal of the 2023 Duck and Quail hunting seasons on 12<sup>th</sup> January was a good result for sustainable hunting in South Australia and its timely announcement allows the hunting community to be well prepared. However, there are areas of concern that I wish to bring to your attention.

Further to my correspondence immediately following the Duck and Quail Season Stakeholder Reference Panel meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in which CHASA made several alternative recommendations (Attached), I would like to discuss with you the final recommendations made by the Department to the Minister and the season declarations.

The 3 alternative recommendations made by CHASA in my correspondence to you were:

1. — CHASA will support an R2 Duck Season (8 bird bag) on the basis that DEW obtain an independent assessment of the national waterfowl population to inform the 2024 season setting process.
2. — Duck Season opening on 4th March 2023, and not coinciding with the Victorian season opening.
3. — Quail season opening on the same weekend as the waterfowl season and closing on 27 August 2023, with a 25 bird bag limit.

CHASA also recommended that all game species except Australasian Shoveler be in the bag, based on:

1. The seven-year continuous Hunter Bag Survey by CHASA (2015 to 2022) demonstrates that 90% of the harvest will be made up of the four most abundant waterfowl species, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, and Wood Duck, and a further 3% to 8% Australian Shelduck, resulting in no risk to the highly nomadic species Hardhead and Pink-eared Duck that may or may not return to

---

## MEMBER/AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS

South Australian Field and Game Association (SAFGA), Sporting Shooters Association of Australia - SA, Hellenic Shooting Sports Association of South Australia, Quail Tomorrow, Working Gun Dogs of SA, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia – Conservation and Wildlife Management, Riverland Field and Game, South East Field and Game Association, Artemis Conservation & Hunting Inc. Lake Bonney Sporting Clays, SA Sporting Guns, SA Deer Control

South Australian wetlands during the hunting season.

CHASA draws your attention to the widespread distribution and breeding of the highly nomadic Pink-eared Duck and Hardhead in the Eastern Australia Waterbird Aerial Survey of 2022, coinciding with flood induced breeding in South-eastern Australia.

CHASA is concerned that its advice provided to you, immediately following the Panel meeting was not respected given that it was based on good science, sustainable hunting outcomes and in the best interests of South Australians, especially hunters in the South-east. In one of the most favourable years for waterfowl and quail, CHASA Member organisations are now questioning their commitment to the Panel process.

CHASA brings a wealth of field experience, scientific integrity, and commitment to the DEW/CHASA partnership that is sensible and defensible based on the science. We understand that DEW provides its advice to the Minister based on good science and process that is defensible, allowing the Minister to play the politics.

Hence, we seek to understand why:

1. Hardhead and Pink-eared duck were not specified in the bag
2. The South Australian duck season is opening on the same day as Victoria
3. The Quail season is closing on 30 July 2023 and not 25 August 2023

CHASA seeks to understand whether its advice was considered or whether the Department had formulated its advice prior to the Stakeholder Panel Meeting.

Further, CHASA has developed a *Sustainable Hunting Plan – Demonstrating world's best practice in field hunting*, and I will draw your attention to this initiative and open discussions on DEW's ability to commit support to this Plan.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience

Yours sincerely

Signature redacted

A large rectangular area is redacted with a solid grey fill, obscuring the signature of Graham Stopp.

Graham Stopp  
President



**Further information to assist DEW in preparing a briefing package for the Minister, based on the Duck & Quail Hunting Season Stakeholder Reference Panel meeting on 19/12/2022**

**Prepared by CHASA Delegates**

**Graham Stopp, Rob West, Matt Godson, Tony Sharley, Tom Vartzokas, Mark Fabris**

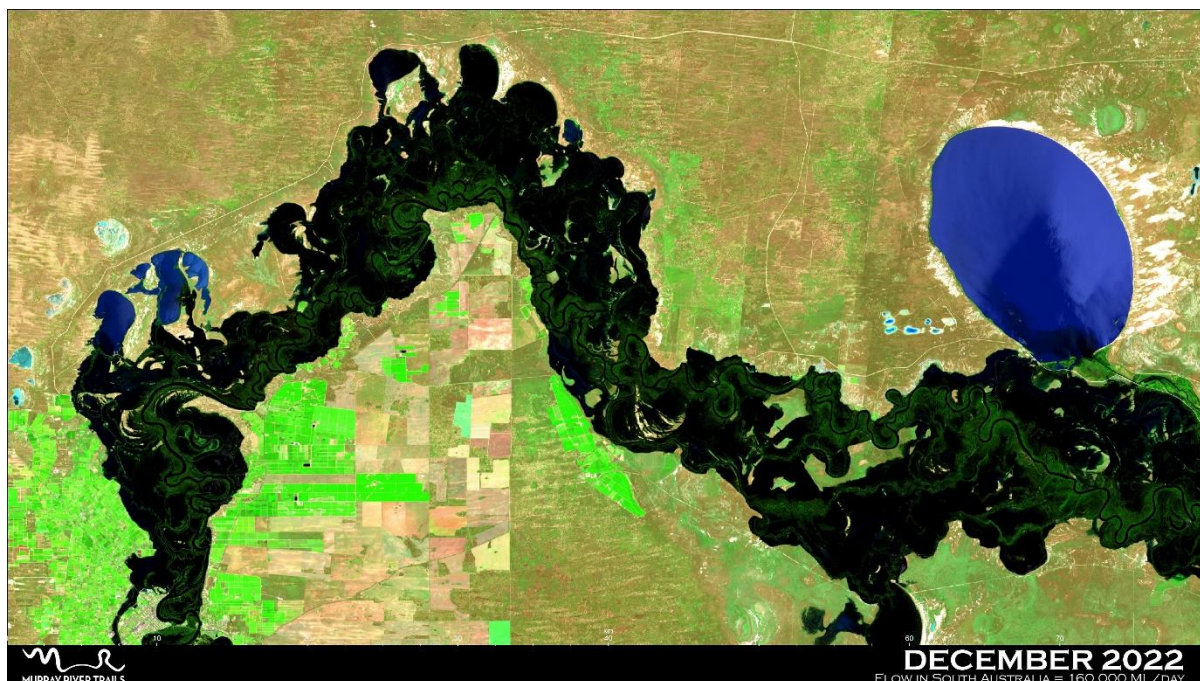


Photo. Satellite image showing Murray River flooding at the South Australian Victorian border region.

## **Background**

The Department for Environment and Water has prepared a comprehensive resource on which to develop recommendations for declaring sustainable duck and quail hunting seasons in 2023. CHASA and SSAA has contributed to that resource.

CHASA delegates participated in Stage 5 — the Duck and Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel Meeting (Stakeholder Meeting) held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

At the Stakeholder Meeting, CHASA had limited opportunity to discuss the DEW position on the 2023 Duck and Quail Seasons.

CHASA understands that Stage 6 involves DEW preparing a Ministerial briefing package based on the statement of outcomes and post-meeting DEW discussions.

CHASA submits the following comments on the DEW position and makes the following recommendations including several alternative recommendations to those made at the Stakeholder Meeting.

## Recommendations (Waterfowl Season 2023)

The DEW position indicated that the data supported an 8-bird bag due to the increase in habitat and breeding conditions, however, DEW is concerned about the long term population decline in species.

**CHASA recommended a Full Season with a 12-bird bag, based on:**

1. The significant increase in surface water coverage and greenness throughout Southeastern Australia in 2022, following above average rainfall in 2021 that has produced widespread flooding and a significant waterfowl breeding response measured by the 2022 EAWS in South-eastern Australia.
2. A 12-bird bag in 2023 represents an increase from an 8-bird bag in 2022 due to the improved habitat conditions and breeding index (EAWS) from 2021 to 2022.
3. Four of the six metrics for setting a waterfowl season in 2023 were at their highest level (**Appendix 1**), and the 2 metrics that were low were easily explained because low waterfowl counts are due to the widespread dispersal of waterfowl away from permanent wetlands in South Australia to flooded catchments in the Murray Darling Basin and the adjacent Cooper Basin.
4. The 2022 metrics of SA Waterfowl Abundance (Ground, SA Aerial) and Total Waterfowl abundance (EAWS) were low, just as they were when flooding occurred in the Murray Darling Basin in 2010 and 2016. Grey Teal which are the most abundant and widespread species of waterfowl in Australia, were the main species contributing to low abundance in all three flood years, and hence the low counts can be easily explained and can be expected to bounce back when Grey Teal return as ephemeral wetlands dry up in the inland regions of Australia (**Appendix 2**).
5. Grey Teal composition in the hunter bag (CHASA Bag Survey 2022) was also lower in 2021 and 2022 compared to previous years, reflecting the dispersal of Grey Teal to floodwaters in the Murray Darling Basin (**Appendix 3**).
6. The long-term decline in waterfowl species abundance is based on one count at the same time every year along a fixed transect survey (EAWS) over 40 years, not an absolute estimate of populations in Australia. The declining trend is not an indication of hunting impact, rather an indication of habitat availability and rainfall decline in inland Australia at the time of surveying ducks in November each year.
7. The national waterbird survey of 2008 (Kingsford et al 2012) and further regional surveys in 2021 indicate that continental population of waterfowl (6 to 10 million birds) is not impacted by sustainable harvests resulting from DEW season setting limits, based on total seasonal harvest of waterfowl being significantly less than 10% of total population estimates (**Appendix 4**).
8. CHASA acknowledges that in the absence of an independent assessment of the national waterfowl population, long term waterfowl species decline creates uncertainty around the impact of hunting offtake on viable population thresholds.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 1** — CHASA will support an R2 Season (8 bird bag) on the basis that DEW obtain an independent assessment of the national waterfowl population to inform the 2024 season setting process.

**The DEW position supported all game species in the bag except Australasian Shoveler.**

**CHASA also recommended that all game species except Australasian Shoveler be in the bag, based on:**

1. The seven-year continuous Hunter Bag Survey by CHASA (2015 to 2022) demonstrates that 90% of the harvest will be made up of the four most abundant waterfowl species, Black Duck, Grey Teal, Chestnut Teal, and Wood Duck, and a further 3% to 8% Australian Shelduck, resulting in no risk to the highly nomadic species Hardhead and Pink-eared Duck that may or may not return to South Australian wetlands during the hunting season.

**The DEW position indicated that it supported a mid-March opening and a June 25<sup>th</sup> closing.**

**CHASA recommended a mid-February opening and a June 25<sup>th</sup> closing, based on:**

1. A mid-February opening allows hunters in the South-east to access waterbodies before they dry out. This has been a consideration for decades to ensure that all hunters can hunt in the South-east when wetlands are low and drying, as is the case in 2022/23.
2. CHASA is concerned that a mid-March opening will coincide with the Victorian Opening which will reduce travel by Victorians into South Australia for season opening. This will reduce economic benefit to towns near the SA/Victorian border in both the South-east and the Riverland.
3. Hence, the season opening must demonstrate consideration of hunter access to wetlands in the South-east, and the economy.
4. The CHASA delegate from the South-east has advised that based on regional conditions, season opening could be as late as the 25 Feb/4 March.
5. DEW comments have been made that an early opening in Mid-February may coincide with late breeding of waterfowl due to flooding, as the reason for moving the opening to mid-March. However, CHASA experience is that there is no evidence of hunting juvenile birds that cannot fly.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 2** — CHASA recommends a season opening on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023, and not coinciding with the Victorian season opening.

## **Recommendations (Quail Season 2023)**

The DEW position indicated support for a quail season in 2023, although a bag limit was not stated, nor opening and closing dates.

**CHASA recommended a quail season opening on the same weekend as the waterfowl season (mid-February) and closing on 27 August 2023, with a 25-bird bag limit, based on:**

1. Significant inland rainfall and improvement in the greenness index during 2022, indicating excellent conditions for quail breeding.
2. Matt Godson (CHASA delegate) advised that pre-season population estimates are not available due to late commencement of cereal harvest across SA, however, the results of the 2021 pre-season survey (M. Godson, December 2021) followed by improved conditions in 2022 indicate that population estimates should exceed those of 2021.
3. The SSAA survey of 2021 sampled over 16,024 birds throughout cropping regions of South Australia, demonstrating regional abundance correlated to antecedent rainfall, and a total population of between 6,201,992– 17,803,220 individuals, indicating that season harvest represents 0.04% of the estimated population, which is vanishingly small compared with internationally accepted harvest rates of 10-20% of the population (M. Godson, December 2021).
4. The Victorian Quail survey (Arthur Rylah Institute 2021) clearly shows that hunting 170,000 quail in Victoria in 2022 was sustainable (less than 10% of 3 million population), and South Australia harvested significantly less than this in an area with significantly more quail habitat.
5. The closing date enables hunters to work dogs in the cooler months of the season and in months where there is no published evidence nor field experience to indicate breeding.

**CHASA ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION 3** — quail season opening on the same weekend as the waterfowl season and closing on 27 August 2023, with a 25 bird bag limit.

## Appendix 1. 2023 waterfowl season setting matrix using 2022 data from several sources that indicate waterfowl abundance and habitat condition.

Note that the 2022 conditions are most similar to 2010 and 2016 which were also flood years in the Murray Darling Basin.

2022\_DQOSSRP\_V1\_for\_panel\_reduced.pdf

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63 of 76

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	SA waterfowl abundance Ground(SA Aerial)	SA wetland status (% wetlands in the range 2-5)	SA River Murray inflows (6 GL/day = entitlement flow)	Total waterfowl abundance (EAWS)	Number of all Waterbird species breeding (EAWS)	Breeding index all species (EAWS)	Season Status
2022	12,028 (9,975)	85%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	48,748	21	60,580	
2021	23,627 (26,929)	79%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	49,704	9	2494	2022 Season Open R2
2020	17,272 (17,874)	78%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	91,230	3	364	2021 Season Open R3
2019	23,954 (72,677)	86%	Below entitlement - most managed wetlands watered	118,761	6	1,987	2020 Season Open R3
2018	83,114 (149,363)	89%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	101,185	2	<625	2019 Season Open R2
2017	49,983 (373,681)	93%	Above Entitlement Flow - average local breeding	150,642	6*	315	2018 Season Open R1
2016	10,709 (8,852)	93%	Above Entitlement flow - average local breeding	9,408	~21*	~25,000*	2017 Season Open R1
2015	59,117	56%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	66,266	0	0	2016 Season Open R3
2014	171,277	66%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	128,671	1	12	2015 Season open R1
2013	115,337 (162,144)	97%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	96,850	4	212	2014 Season open R1
2012	175,085	84%	Entitlement flow - average local breeding	428,179	9	2,402	2013 Season open FULL
2011	135,844 (179,638)	97%	Entitlement flow - all managed wetlands watered	630,470	23	3,373	2012 Season open FULL
2010	13,899	92%	Entitlement flow - all managed wetlands watered	93,300	22	61,243	2011 Season open FULL
2009	60,612	88%	Below entitlement - most managed wetlands watered	172,253	7	599	2010 Season open R3
2008	36,506	68%	Below entitlement flow - limited watering of icon sites	136,657	5	725	2009 Season open R3
2007	35,685	40%	Below entitlement flow - main channel flow only	68,549	2	469	2008 Season closed

6:55 AM  
21/12/2022



## Appendix 2. Game duck abundance in the SA 100 Wetland Survey.

Note the low numbers of Grey Teal coinciding with flood years 2010, 2016 and 2021 and 2022, and the population increase in years following those floods. There was no increase in 2022 because flooding that started in 2021 has continued to increase in 2022 to a record flood year in the Murray Darling Basin.

2022\_DQOSSRP\_V1\_for\_panel\_reduced.pdf

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### Game duck abundance

Year	Grey Teal	Chestnut Teal	Black Duck	Wood Duck	Mountain Duck	Blue-winged Shoveler	Hard Head	Pink-eared Duck	Totals
2003	43,948	3,177	2,801	1,389	1,102	1,428	8,126	16,946	78,917
2004	39,789	2,746	3,038	801	3,869	2,118	4,673	6,762	63,796
2005	27,339	1,848	7,824	522	4,583	1,956	3,190	1,292	48,554
2006	22,881	2,078	2,096	441	4,216	1,178	1,520	3,396	37,806
2007	22,594	2,055	1,709	501	4,537	908	1,792	1,589	35,685
2008	25,031	2,398	1,724	819	3,129	1,518	1,093	794	36,506
2009	39,626	3,232	2,955	724	3,539	1,364	7,084	2,088	60,612
2010	3,801	826	1,733	1,051	5,609	86	760	33	13,899
2011	86,256	7,341	3,689	1,661	5,482	715	26,342	4,358	135,844
2012	127,695	5,734	5,311	1,686	11,422	2,331	13,434	7,472	175,085
2013	89,105	2,658	689	627	2,052	4,419	8,435	7,353	115,337
2014	130,353	5,084	2,982	613	10,730	2,634	2,967	15,915	171,277
2015	28,392	7,630	1,243	464	7,251	6,374	2,277	5,487	59,117
2016	2,200	401	997	724	6,112	87	83	107	10,709
2017	34,009	5,776	2,324	841	1,692	171	3,636	1,535	49,983
2018	54,665	11,946	3,839	672	3,082	2,076	3,809	3,028	83,114
2019	15,151	2,818	2,283	395	955	438	1,341	572	23,954
2020	4,845	1,656	2,797	375	6,478	134	809	178	17,272
2021	7,715	1,900	3,748	1,172	4,331	73	1,815	2,873	23,627
2022	4,703	1,193	2,268	841	2,876	7	21	119	12,028
Average	40,505	3,625	2,803	816	4,652	1,501	4,660	4,095	62,656

Not for distribution outside DQOSSRP

7:24 AM 21/12/2022

**Appendix 3. The proportion of Game duck species in the hunters bag each season (2015 to 2022)**



## Duck harvests in SA (2015 to 2022)

Black Duck dominate bag in 2021 and 2022 (51% to 44%)

Grey Teal dominate bag 2015 to 2019 (44% to 51%)

Black Duck and Grey Teal make up 67-84% of game duck harvest every season

Relatively low Grey Teal % in 2021 and 2022 reflects low bird density, dispersal inland

GAME SPECIES	2022 % of bag	2021 % of bag	2020 No survey	2019 % of bag	2018 % of bag	2017 % of bag	2016 % of bag	2015 % of bag
Black Duck	44%	51%		27%	29%	32%	27%	37%
Grey Teal	23%	29%		51%	47%	44%	48%	47%
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Wood Duck	22%	10%		6%	7%	10%	10%	7%
Mountain Duck	8%	5%		3%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Pink-eared Duck	<1%	NIB		6%	9%	6%	6%	3%
Hardhead	<1%	NIB		0.2%	0.9%	Not in bag	Not in bag	Not in bag
Mean daily bag	4.00	2.62		5.92 (2.42)	8.35 (3.91)	6.93	3.85	6
Bag Limit	8	4	4	8	12	10	5	10

#### **Appendix 4. Estimates of the national population of game ducks in Australia**

The estimated total population of game ducks in Australia naturally fluctuates from year to year as habitat and breeding conditions fluctuate.

Various regional and national waterfowl surveys indicate that the total population of waterfowl is in the millions ranging between 6 and 14 million game ducks.

The EAWS 2022 resulted in 49,527 game ducks counted on 326,769 ha of wetlands, resulting in a density of 0.15 birds per hectare, indicating a population across the survey area of 2.88 million birds.

Improved habitat conditions and a significant increase in waterbird breeding index (EAWS 2022) demonstrate that the national waterfowl population will increase significantly in 2023.

**Table 1. Extrapolated population estimates of game duck species in large regions of Australia.**

<b>Survey</b>	<b>Game ducks/ha</b>	<b>Regional area</b>	<b>Estimated population game ducks</b>
National Waterbird Survey 2008	0.325	32 million ha of wetland	10.4 million
EAWS 2021	0.33	19 million ha of wetlands	6.34 million
<b>EAWS 2022</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>19 million ha of wetlands</b>	<b>2.88 million</b>
Victorian Game Survey 2021		825 wetlands	2.9 million
Riverina NSW 2021		80,586 sq km	1.15 million
Murray Darling Basin		1.061,000 sq km	14 million (extrapolated from Riverina NSW 2021)

The annual offtake of ducks in South Australia (12,000 to 80,000 game ducks, CHASA 2015 to 2022) is more than 2 orders of magnitude less than estimates of the total population and is therefore not significant, and well below conservative game management harvest of 20% of the population.

Duck hunting is sustainable – posing no risk to the populations of each game duck species.



---

**From:** DEW:Correspondence OCE  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 February, 2023 12:13 PM  
**To:** President@chasa.org.au  
**Cc:** Secretary@chasa.org.au  
**Subject:** Letter from the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water  
**Attachments:** CE approved - DEW-D0020598 Letter.pdf

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water.

Regards,

Office of the Chief Executive  
Department for Environment and Water  
81-95 Waymouth Street  
ADELAIDE SA 5000  
[environment.sa.gov.au](mailto:environment.sa.gov.au)



**SOUTH**  
AUSTRALIA



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Environment  
and Water

*Helping South Australians conserve, sustain and prosper*

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DEW-D0020598

Mr Graham Stopp  
President  
Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia  
PO Box 3137  
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Dear Mr Stopp

Thank you for your letter dated 16 January 2023 regarding the 2023 Duck and Quail Open Seasons. I thank the Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA) and its member groups for their ongoing efforts to support sustainable hunting in South Australia, and for participating in the Duck and Quail Open Season Stakeholder Reference Panel (the Panel).

I understand that CHASA are disappointed in some elements of the 2023 declared open seasons. You would be aware that open season setting is a complex process. In accordance with the arrangements for open season setting, the department considers a range of information in preparing documentation for the Panel and preparing advice to the minister. I can assure you that the department considered your advice on the 2023 open seasons, along with that of other Panel members, prior to providing advice to the minister.

Your letter raises several points that I will seek to address. In relation to hardhead and pink-eared duck, these species were not specified in the open season notice due to the ongoing low abundances recorded in the South Australian surveys, and in eastern Australian surveys. As you advise, neither species typically make up a large proportion of hunter take reported in hunter return surveys. My sense is that excluding these 2 species from the 2023 duck hunting open season would not have a significant impact on hunters. Adaptive season setting practices may result in these species being returned to the list of species that can be hunted in future open seasons.

The 2023 South Australian duck open season has been declared by the Minister to align to the legislated first Saturday of a Victorian Duck Open Season, should one be declared, in order to manage hunting effort.

Quail season closing (and opening) in 2023 is aligned to the recommendations of Frith and Carpenter<sup>1</sup>, which remains the most contemporary scientific advice on the timing of the stubble quail open season across south eastern Australia.

<sup>1</sup> Frith HJ Carpenter SM (1980) Breeding of the Stubble Quail, *Coturnix pectoralis*, in South-Eastern Australia. Wildlife Research 7, 117-137.

Thank you for providing me with CHASA's 'Sustainable Hunting Plan – Demonstrating world's best practice in field hunting'. It would be a suitable discussion item for the next DEW-CHASA Quarterly Catch-up.

For further information regarding these matters, please contact PC045 REDACTION, Principal Ecologist-Wildlife Management within the Department for Environment and Water on PC045 REDACTION [@sa.gov.au](mailto:PC045 REDACTION@sa.gov.au) or 8463 6587.

Thank you for writing to me. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**JOHN SCHUTZ**

Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water

09/02/2023

Cc: Vicki Fabris, CHASA Secretary, email: [Secretary@chasa.org.au](mailto:Secretary@chasa.org.au)