



## What changes are happening for the 2025 open season?

In 2025, there will be some changes to be aware of, namely:

- an increase in hunting permit fees
- Waterfowl Identification Tests have moved to an online platform (instead of in person)
- a reduction in bag limits from 2024 season
- an addition of 2 duck species to the non-game list since the 2024 season (now 3 in total).

This Frequently Asked Questions document has been prepared to help explain these changes, and other general questions which may arise.

## 1 Permit fee increases

### 1.1 What are the permit fee increases this year?

The new permit fees for the 2025 open season will be \$100 each for a Duck Hunting Permit or Quail Hunting Permit, or \$50 each for an equivalent junior or concession permit.

### 1.2 Why are the permit fees increasing?

The costs to administer an open season have been reviewed as a result of the Native Bird Hunting Inquiry. It has been determined that permit fees should be adjusted to better reflect the costs incurred for open season administration and management.

### 1.3 Will there be more permit fee increases?

The fees will continue to increase incrementally over the next 5 years.

### 1.4 What does permit fee money get used for?

Funds raised from permit fees go into the Wildlife Conservation Fund which supports activities for the conservation of wildlife, land and/or habitat, and the promotion of research in the interest of wildlife conservation.

## 2 Waterfowl Identification Test

### 2.1 What are the changes being made to the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)?

The WIT is managed nationwide by the Victorian Game Management Authority (GMA). GMA have advised that the WIT has moved to an online unsupervised system.

The online test is the same test that has always been provided, the only change is that participants will now have to complete the test online instead of in person.

### 2.2 Why do I need to pass the WIT?

The requirement to pass the WIT ensures that only hunters who are able to accurately identify waterfowl are permitted to hunt game ducks in South Australia.

### 2.3 What does the online test involve?

The online test is viewed as a video, consisting of 22 multiple-choice questions. Applicants have 15 minutes to complete all 22 multiple-choice questions. A species of waterfowl is viewed for approximately five seconds and applicants must select the correct waterbird species and its hunting status before moving to the next question.

The online test also includes a mandatory 90-minute training component.



## 2.4 How do I complete the Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)?

Participants wishing to take the online WIT will need to create a My Game Licence (MyGL) account and complete the online test via the Game Management Authority website: <https://licensing.gma.vic.gov.au/>

Further information on how to create a MyGL account can be found here: [instructions on how to set up a MyGL account - Game Management Authority](#)

## 2.5 What score is required to pass the test?

A score of 85% or greater is required to obtain a pass (i.e. 57 out of 66), provided that the applicant also correctly identifies **all** non-game species.

## 2.6 How do I get my test results?

Applicants who complete the test will receive an email to their nominated email address with their test results. A copy of the test results must be retained as evidence that a WIT has been completed and must be provided to the relevant authority within 5 business days if requested to do so.

Please note that test results will no longer include a WIT number. The results will include a grade only.

## 2.7 How do I query my test results?

As with the previous manual tests, the Department for Environment and Water does not have any involvement in the marking of Waterfowl Identification Tests or visibility over test results. To discuss your WIT results, contact the Game Management Authority on 136 186.

## 2.8 How do I apply for an Open Season hunting permit if I no longer have a WIT number?

Applicants simply need to tick a box to state that they have successfully completed the WIT, have obtained the relevant grade for hunting in SA and are able to provide evidence of this to the relevant authority within 5 business days, if requested to do so.

## 2.9 What are the benefits of the online Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)?

The online WIT will provide hunters with an accessible and convenient way to complete the test, which can be completed at any time convenient to them.

## 2.10 I do not have access to the internet/am not good with computers, how do I complete my Waterfowl Identification Test (WIT)?

The Game Management Authority have advised that there will be no alternative manual option available for individuals who do not have access to the internet.

The Department for Environment and Water encourages those who need assistance to complete the WIT process, to reach out to a friend or family member who can assist with internet access, contact their local hunting organisation or attend their local library.

## 2.11 If I fail the WIT, can I do it again?

Participants who have completed the WIT can complete the test as many times as required to obtain a pass grade, at no additional cost.

## 2.12 Does the WIT need to be done each time I apply for an Open Season hunting permit?

The WIT only needs to be completed once. Hunters who are applying for an Open Season hunting permit in SA are not required to pass the test again, unless required to do so. This may happen if a hunter is convicted of shooting non-game birds.

# 3 Bag limit reductions

## 3.1 How many ducks can I hunt this year?

The bag limit for the 2025 Duck Open Season is:

No more than six (6) ducks per day made up of any combination of the following species:

- grey teal (*Anas gracilis*)
- chestnut teal (*Anas castanea*)
- Pacific black duck (*Anas superciliosa*)
- maned (wood) duck (*Chenonetta jubata*)
- Australian shelduck (mountain duck) (*Tadorna tadornoides*) no more than two (2) per day.

## 3.2 How many quails can I hunt this year?

The bag limit for the 2025 Quail Open Season is no more than fifteen (15) stubble quail per day.

## 4 Non-permitted duck species

### 4.1 What are the non-permitted duck species this year?

The protected species that have been permitted for hunting in previous years but are **not** permitted for the 2025 duck hunting open season are:

- pink-eared duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)
- hardhead (*Aythya australis*)
- Australasian (blue-winged) shoveler (*Anas rhynchos*).

## 5 Bird Flu

### 5.1 Does game bird hunting increase the risk of bird flu in Australia?

While Australia remains free of H5 Bird Flu, the department will continue to monitor the situation and advise the Minister if any risks emerge that require changes to the open season declaration.

The Minister may revoke or revise the open season declarations prior to or during an open season if conditions deteriorate or circumstances change, such as the emergence of H5 bird flu.

Further general information on H5 bird flu can be found at [birdflu.gov.au](http://birdflu.gov.au), including information for hunters having contact with wildlife. Personal protective equipment and hand hygiene are strongly encouraged.

## 6 Animal welfare concerns

### 6.1 Why does the government allow the hunting of ducks and quails?

It is acknowledged that whilst not everyone is supportive of native bird hunting, it is regulated to ensure that hunting is done in a humane and sustainable way.

In determining the conditions for native bird hunting in South Australia, the Department for Environment and Water assesses climate data and forecasts, landscape and wetland condition, and waterfowl abundance.

The potential impacts of hunting activities on the conservation and sustainability of waterfowl populations and stakeholder feedback are also considered as part of the assessment process.