



For Immediate Release
Thursday 18 December 2014

MEDIA STATEMENT
ADELAIDE, SA

Sad anniversary for SA ducks

25 years of State Government inaction

The following statement is attributable to Dr Dianne Evans, RSPCA South Australia Animal Welfare Advocate:

“The announcement of the 2015 duck and quail open season by Minister Hunter today represents a sad anniversary for South Australia’s wildlife.

“25 years after the West Australian government put animal welfare first by banning duck hunting, South Australia remains trapped in the eighties by sanctioning a duck and quail open season.

“Duck hunting was outlawed in Western Australia in 1990, in New South Wales in 1995 and in Queensland in 2005.

“We believe there can be no justification for killing and injuring ducks purely for ‘sport’.

“Shooting ducks in flight with a shotgun does not kill every bird instantly. Shotgun cartridges create a spray of pellets, which often miss a bird’s vital organs.

“Research has shown a significant percentage of ducks who are shot do not die instantly. Obviously this is a large welfare concern.

“There is no accountability when it comes to South Australian hunters reporting the ducks they shoot.

“We simply don’t know how many South Australian birds are suffering because a very small number of shooters complete a survey form. This means there have been no hunting reports compiled for two years because there is no data.

“We are in the dark when it comes to knowing who is hunting, how often, where, what

birds and if they are suffering.

“Banning duck and quail hunting could be done easily through the inclusion of a new regulation under the South Australian Animal Welfare Act.

“It’s time South Australia got with the times. Our ducks deserve it.

“I urge anybody who feels like we do, that duck hunting is inhumane and unjustifiable on welfare grounds, to contact their local member of state parliament and make their voices heard.”

For more information on duck hunting, visit <http://www.rspcasa.org.au/how-to-help/supportourcampaigns/duckhunting/>

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For more information, or an interview with an RSPCA spokesperson, please contact:

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