

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, 30th December, 2009

SSAA Vic Welcomes Minister Holding's Announcement Of A 2010 DUCK HUNTING SEASON

The SSAA Vic welcomes the Announcement today from acting Minister Tim Holding, that there is to be a Duck Hunting Season in 2010. The opening date will be the 20th March. This puts an end to any uncertainty.

SSAA Vic Hunting and Conservation Manager, Colin Wood said: "A modified season shortened by 2 weeks with a reduced bird bag limit is eminently sensible. It is pleasing that the Minister has acted in line with the recommendations of the (newly appointed) Hunting Advisory Committee, (H.A.C.) a statutory government body chaired by Mr Ross McPherson. It bodes well for the new H.A.C., which shows every indication of being a competent and well-balanced committee.

Improved rainfall and environmental outlook have brought about increased duck numbers, so that a season can be readily sustained without threatening any species."

Mr Wood continued. "For our detractors, it is interesting to contemplate that there are plenty of game ducks across Australia (The "hunted" species), while other bird species (including lesser – known water birds) are quite depleted. This puts paid to major arguments opposing duck hunting.

In conclusion I ask all Duck Hunters to go out and enjoy the 2010 season. Spend your 'Huntourist' Dollar in pressured Rural Communities. Act responsibly, keep safety (in the field and on the road), as your number 1 priority.

Abide by the environmental ethic – leave no trace."

For further information contact Colin Wood on 0427 682 223 or 8892 2777