Wildfowl season to open on October 1

1 July 2016

The Northern Territory Government has announced the 2016 Waterfowl Hunting Season will open at 6.15am on October 1, for a period of 12 weeks.

Minister for Land Resource Management Gary Higgins said extensive monitoring of the waterfowl populations and nesting was used to inform its decision making around the declaration.

“In order to reduce the risk of population decline, the daily bag limit will remain the same this year – seven magpie geese per person and 10 ducks per person,” Mr Higgins said.

“Due to the poor wet seasons the Top End has experienced in the past couple of years, magpie geese nesting has declined to historically low levels, which has led to our decision to reduce the duration of this year’s season from 16 weeks to 12 weeks.

“Waterfowl hunting in the Top End is a popular recreational activity amongst Territorians and visitors, but it is also important to maintain the balance between the desires of the hunting community and the Territory lifestyle with the long term sustainability of magpie geese populations.

“The delayed start of the season was chosen to ensure geese populations would be well established in dry season habitat prior to hunting starting.”

Minister Gary Higgins also reminded the public to do the right thing, stick to the bag limits and apply for their permits if they planned on participating in this year’s waterfowl hunting season.

“It is essential for hunters to obtain a permit before going hunting to help protect the sustainability of waterfowls,” Mr Higgins said.

“Last year the government introduced the convenience of a five year permit for $80 rather than the previous option of $20 for a one year permit.

“I encourage everyone to please hunt safely and responsibly while enjoying their hunting season this year.”

For more information about waterfowl hunting, please visit www.nt.gov.au.

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