Karl Hampton
MINISTER FOR PARKS AND WILDLIFE

1 SEPTEMBER 2009

Waterfowl Hunting Season Starts Today

Parks and Wildlife Minister Karl Hampton today wished Territory hunters well as the waterfowl hunting season begins today for another year, from 6.20am.

Mr Hampton said careful consideration had been given to how long the season should last and when it should begin to ensure the magpie goose population remains high.

“Goose hunting has always been a part of the Territory lifestyle and careful management is allowing this tradition to continue,” Mr Hampton said.

“Last wet season saw below average nesting of magpie geese across the Top End, allowing for another four month hunting season this year, which ends at 7.30pm on 30 December.

“We are continuing to carefully monitor waterfowl populations so we can maintain the balance between this great part of our lifestyle and the long term sustainability of magpie geese.

‘It’s important that all hunters join with us to ensure the long term sustainability of hunting and obtain a permit before they start shooting to allow appropriate monitoring to continue.

“Under the conditions of permit, lead and zinc shot types will be banned as lead poisoning poses a severe threat to waterfowl populations and the health of our wetlands.”

The bag limit this year is seven geese and seven ducks per person.

“I encourage shooters to dispose of carcasses responsibly and to remove carcasses from reserves wherever practical,” Mr Hampton said.

“Territorians have been hunting geese for thousands of years and through careful management and cooperation we can continue this great part of our lifestyle.”

Mr Hampton said only Aboriginal people hunting on their traditional lands don’t require a permit; all other hunters require a permit to hunt waterfowl anywhere in the Northern Territory.

“Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service rangers will monitor hunting activities throughout the hunting season to ensure compliance with permit conditions,” Mr Hampton said.

“I urge hunters to lodge a permit return at the end of the hunting season, with permit returns a vital part of the overall management of the waterfowl hunting season.”

For more information about waterfowl hunting and permits go to www.nt.gov.au/waterfowl

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