Deputy Chief Minister David Tollner has tonight presented Humpty Doo father-of-two Jason Kleefsman with this year’s Number One permit for the 2013 Northern Territory Waterfowl Hunting Season, which gets underway this Wednesday.

Mr Kleefsman was named the Number One waterfowl hunting permit holder at tonight’s Goose Expo at the Mickett Creek Shooting Complex, after his name was drawn from the permit return raffle in July.

“More than 2,000 Territorians enjoy going goose hunting every year and it was a pleasure to wish everyone well for ahead of this season and congratulate Mr Kleefsman on his prize,” Mr Tollner said.

“I know Geese hunting is a very popular pastime in the Top End, it allows Territorians to enjoy our great outdoors and is a unique aspect of our lifestyle.

“I thank all the shooters who submitted their returns from last year and whose names went into the raffle for the 2013 Number One Permit. I encourage everyone to submit their returns again after this season to be in the running for next year’s prizes.”

Mr Kleefsman said he had been goose hunting every year since moving to the Territory 10 years ago.

“It’s great fun, we all love it and it’s a very enjoyable hobby. I can’t wait for this season to begin and am really looking forward to it,” Mr Kleefsman said.

Almost 560 people have already been issued with waterfowl hunting permits in preparation for the 2013 season and Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price is once again urging hunters to submit their returns to inform decisions about future hunting seasons.

“I strongly encourage permit holders to submit their returns at the end of this season, as it provides key information for declaring the season and ensuring the sustainability of the magpie goose hunting season for the future,” Ms Price said.

“Daily bag limits this year will again be the same as last year, which is 10 Magpie Geese and 10 ducks per hunter per day. The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT will also be doing random checks to ensure hunters have permits and are doing the right thing by others and the environment.”

Ms Price said Magpie Geese are classified as protected wildlife in the Northern Territory and strict conditions would once again be in place this season, including:

- The use of lead shot is prohibited on all Northern Territory land including Parks and Wildlife Commission hunting reserves.
Waterfowl hunting permits are available prior to the opening of and for the duration of the season - all hunters are required to obtain a permit whether hunting on the Hunting Reserves, Crown Land or private property.

Lodgement of a permit return at the end of the hunting season is not mandatory. However, permit returns have an essential role in determining the overall management of the waterfowl hunting season. Failure to lodge a permit return may reduce our capacity to appropriately manage future waterfowl hunting seasons and place the long term continuance of the season in jeopardy, particularly increased bag limits which are dependent on detailed knowledge of harvest levels.

You can hunt on:

- Identified Parks and Wildlife Commission Hunting Reserves (Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve and Howard Springs Hunting Reserve until 23 December 2013 and Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve and Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve until 5 January 2014) provided you have a permit to hunt waterfowl;
- Designated Crown Land provided you have both a permit to hunt waterfowl and a permit issued by the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment; and
- Private property (which includes Aboriginal Land) provided you have a permit to hunt waterfowl, you have the permission of the landholder beforehand and can meet the setback conditions under the firearms act.

Hunters must obtain a permit before participating in the 2013 Waterfowl Hunting Season.

The 2013 Waterfowl Hunting Season kicks off on Wednesday 18 September at 6:15am. It will run for 16 weeks until Sunday 5 January 2014.

For more information about this year’s waterfowl hunting season go to: [www.nt.gov.au/waterfowl](http://www.nt.gov.au/waterfowl)

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