The Northern Territory Government today announced the 2015 Waterfowl Hunting Season will open at 6:15am on Wednesday 23rd September, for a period of almost 15 weeks.

Minister for Land Resource Management Willem Westra van Holthe said the government has used contemporary science to inform its decision making around the declaration.

“It’s vital we balance the desires of the hunting community with the long term sustainability of Magpie Geese populations,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“Daily bag limits for Ducks will remain at 10 per person, while the quota for Magpie Geese will reduce slightly from 10 to seven per day; this is due to the reduced number of waterfowl nesting the past two wet seasons.

“Following discussions with NT Field and Game, we have opened the season to Sunday 3rd January 2016 - a decision which will allow Territorians to hunt during the Christmas-New Year period when many have time off work.

“The Northern Territory Government has been working closely with stakeholders and I am confident we have struck the right balance this hunting season,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

The Country Liberals Government has also fulfilled its commitment to reduce red tape and make life easier for the 2,000 people who usually obtain a Waterfowl Hunting Permit each year.

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Bess Price today announced major reform to the permit system which will benefit Territory, interstate and international hunters.

“Hunters can now obtain a five year permit for $80 rather than the previous option of $20 for a one year permit, saving them money and time,” Minister Price said.

“Anyone wishing to take part in the season must have a permit and they can be lodged by hand at the Parks and Wildlife Commission in the NT office, by post or via email.
“A lot of my friends growing up were Hunters and I remind everyone to act safely and responsibly at all times while enjoying their hunting season.

“It is also important to note Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve and Howard Springs Hunting Reserve will close at 7:30pm on the 23rd of December,” Minister Price said.

NT Field and Game spokesperson Bart Irwin welcomed the announcements of reduced red tape and an extension of the season into the New Year.

“I’m extremely pleased to see the Northern Territory Government has taken on board our recommendation to extend the season. The decision is going to have a positive impact on many hunters,” Mr Irwin said.

“NT Field and Game acknowledges the reduction in the bag limit of Magpie Geese on the back of the reduced wet season and we look forward to revisiting the limit ahead of the next season.”

For more information go to: www.nt.gov.au/waterfowl

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