Waterfowl Hunting Season Begins Next Month

Parks and Wildlife Minister Marion Scrymgour today announced this year’s Waterfowl Hunting Season will run from 30 August to 30 December.

“The duration and timing of the season is based on careful consideration by the Parks and Wildlife Service’s wildlife management officers,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“Parks and Wildlife Service research suggests that recreational hunting has a very minor impact on bird numbers compared with other sources of mortality.

“Research and monitoring of waterfowl populations will continue and controls will be implemented if it is deemed necessary.

“Parks and Wildlife Service wildlife management officers will regularly patrol hunting reserves to ensure recreational hunters are well behaved.”

Ms Scrymgour said recreational hunters would be able to apply for Waterfowl Hunting Permits immediately with conditions including the compulsory return of permits and no use of lead shot.

“Lodging of permit returns is an essential part of the overall management of the waterfowl hunting season and failure to lodge a permit return may reduce our capacity to appropriately manage future waterfowl hunting seasons and place the long-term maintenance of the season in jeopardy,” Ms Scrymgour said.

“If permit holders fail to return their permits they may be subject to a fine.

“ Permit holders are allowed to hunt seven magpie geese and seven ducks per day and at no time are they allowed more than 21 of each in their possession away from their normal place of residence.”

Ms Scrymgour said the ban on lead shot applies to all of the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service hunting reserves such as Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve, Howard Springs Hunting Reserve, Lambells Lagoon and Harrison Dam Hunting Reserve. She said waterfowl hunting is not permitted on Djukbinj National Park, known formerly as Marrakai Conservation Reserve.
“The ban on lead shot is the result of the identified serious problem of lead shot poisoning of waterfowl that exists at many wetlands and is part of a national strategy to combat the problem,” Ms Scyrmgour said.


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