23 August 2013

Minister for Parks and Wildlife Matt Conlan today announced the dates for the 2013 Waterfowl Hunting Season.

“The 2013 Northern Territory Waterfowl Hunting Season will start at 6:15am on Wednesday 18 September 2013,” Mr Conlan said.

“The late September start to the season comes on the back of our below average Wet Season rainfall which led to late magpie goose nesting. The delayed season start will ensure all geese are fully fledged before hunting commences.”

The Waterfowl Hunting Season will run for 16 weeks, one week longer than last year, until Sunday 5 January 2014.

“Daily bag limits for the 2013 season will be the same as last year, which is 10 magpie geese and 10 ducks per hunter per day,” Mr Conlan said.

“The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory will conduct random checks of hunting reserves throughout the season to ensure hunters have permits and are doing the right thing by others and the environment.

“I remind and strongly encourage hunters to return their completed permit return forms at the end of this season to help provide us with key information that will help with the future management of waterfowl seasons.”

Lodgement of this information using the permit return form is not mandatory. However, having this information is critical in determining the overall management of the waterfowl hunting season.

The duration and timing of the waterfowl season is based on careful consideration by the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT and the 2013 season will once again have staggered closures.

Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve and Howard Springs Hunting Reserve will close before Christmas at 7:30pm on 23 December 2013. The waterfowl season will close for the remaining two Hunting Reserves, Private Property and Crown Land at 7:45pm on 5 January 2014.

The staggered closures have been maintained from the previous season after resident concerns over disturbances during the Christmas period.

Magpie Geese are classified as protected wildlife in the Northern Territory.

Hunters are reminded of a number of conditions related to waterfowl hunting in the NT especially that the use of lead shot is prohibited on all Northern Territory land including Parks and Wildlife Commission hunting reserves.
The ban on lead shot has resulted from lead shot poisoning waterfowl that exist at many wetlands being identified as a serious problem and is a part of an overall national strategy to combat the problem.

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.

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.

“More than 2000 Territorians enjoy going geese hunting every year,” Mr Conlan said.

“It is a popular past time and allows Territorians to enjoy our great outdoors and lifestyle unique to anywhere else in Australia.

“We will continue to carefully monitor waterfowl populations in order to ensure this recreational pursuit can continue to be enjoyed into the future while protecting the long term sustainability of magpie geese.”

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

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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