



# Melissa Parke MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FREMANTLE



[www.melissaparke.com.au](http://www.melissaparke.com.au)

Mr Matthew Godson  
Special Project Officer  
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Inc.)  
PO Box 2520  
Unley SA 5064

16 June 2011

Dear Mr Godson,

Thank you for your well thought out and comprehensive letter dated 6 June 2011 relating to my speech on the Victorian Government's move to increase bag limits and season lengths for duck hunting.

While I respect the points of view raised in your letter, I have to politely disagree with the position of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia on this matter.

I submit that while some people see duck hunting as a source of organic free-range food, I believe that any such person would agree that bag limits of 10 birds per-day is excessive. In a society where organic free-range food is readily available through humane supply chains, I fail to see why, in this day and age, any person would need to shoot for their food. Furthermore, it is certainly the case that many duck hunters are engaged in this pursuit for recreation and fun, and not for the purpose of finding their next meal.

In relation to research conducted by Professor Richard Kingsford, I am relieved to see an increase in the Australian water bird population. However, I do not hold the belief that an increase in the population condones an increase in hunting. On the contrary, I believe now the population has returned to levels not seen in decades, we should be taking action to protect water birds and ensure we do not repeat the mistake of the past.

While I note your point that duck hunting is not a sport 'per se', I also note the name of your organisation as the Sports Shooter' Association.

Again, thank you for making me aware of the views and opinions of the Sports Shooters' Association of Australia on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Parke MP  
Federal Member for Fremantle

- Attadale
- Atwell
- Aubin Grove
- Banjup
- Beaconsfield
- Beeliar
- Bibra Lake
- Bictan
- Cockburn Central
- Coogee
- Coolbellup
- East Fremantle
- Fremantle
- Hamilton Hill
- Hammond Park
- Henderson
- Hilton
- Jandakot
- Kardinia
- Munster
- Naval Base
- North Coogee
- North Fremantle
- North Lake
- O'Connor
- Palmyra
- Rottnest Island
- Samson
- South Fremantle
- South Lake
- Spearwood
- Success
- Wattleup
- White Gum Valley
- Willagee
- Yangebup