

Her Majesty The Queen

Buckingham Palace

London SW1A 1AA

Madam

I write this letter to advise you of the alarming change in agenda within an organisation bearing a Royal Warrant. The Royal family has a proud history of game hunting and we feel that the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in Australia has had an ideological change where it is now at odds with the principles that brought support from the Royal family.

The RSPCA are lobbying to have game bird hunting banned by proclaiming it as a 'blood sport' and a form of animal cruelty. As your Majesty and your family is well aware, game bird hunting is not a so-called blood sport, but an activity that allows the harvest of game birds for food. In Australia, it is an activity that attracts people of all ages and backgrounds. We as an association feel so strongly about this shift from animal welfare to animal rights that we believe it would make sense to reiterate your support for ethical hunting practises to the RSPCA or withdraw your Royal Warrant and support for their organisation. The RSPCA no longer simply operates under an animal welfare agenda and it now continues to move forward in an extreme animal rights direction.

Many of our members have been supportive of the RSPCA in the past, but due the recent ideological shift, they have withdrawn their support. For the RSPCA to target hunters as individuals who are responsible for cruelty to animals is deplorable. The culture and tradition of hunting, as your Majesty knows, is to respect your quarry, despatch it as quickly as possible and look after the surrounding environment. Waterfowl hunters in Australia have a very proud history of restoring and managing wetlands for the benefit of hundreds of different species of birds when they only utilise a handful of game species during regulated seasons.

King George VI once said "the wildlife of today is not ours to dispose of as we please. We have it in trust. We must account for it to those who come after". This statement rings true in the hearts of hunters across Australia. We are concerned that if the RSPCA continue to seek the banning of waterfowl hunting (and other forms of hunting), the wetlands and environment saved by hunting groups across the country will suffer. The RSPCA and other organisations seeking the prohibition of waterfowl hunting will not take over the conservation work of the hunters. The species that have benefited by the work of hunters will be left without true guardians. The opponents of hunting in Australia are not interested in doing something practical for conservation. We, the hunters of this country, do.

Please consider removing your Royal Warrant from this developing radical organisation.

I have the honour to be, Madam, Your Majesty's most humble and obedient servant.

Bob Green

President

Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia