



*Membre d'honneur
le Dalai-Lama*

Paris, April 20th 2015

The Hon. Lisa Neville
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Water
Level 17, 8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
AUSTRALIA

Dear Ms Neville,

I am sending this letter to you today as I am very concerned about the cruel and ongoing practice of recreational duck shooting in Victoria.

I already wrote to your predecessor Mr. John Thwaites regarding this issue and he was courteous enough to answer my letter.

However, 11 years later, I can see that the situation is still alarming and that the mentalities are unchanged. Some modifications in policy did occur but have not been for the better. Indeed, the fines for trespassing have increased greatly. The shooters still kill illegally many endangered birds and get away with it.

I was also shocked to learn that children as young as 12 years of age are still allowed to shoot birds when accompanied by an adult shooter and that about three years ago a rescuer was shot in the face by a teenager and nearly lost her eyesight.

I can assure you that your present policy is bad for Victoria's reputation outside Australia and that by banning this cruel sport and promoting your beautiful wildlife, Victoria will be more sought after as a tourist destination.

I am asking you again to rethink your position on duck shooting in Victoria and I encourage you to be the one who took the decision to ban duck hunting and who stood up against the powerful hunter lobby. This is the word I wish to spread about your Ministry.

Mahatma Gandhi once said that "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Think about your wildlife, think about your people; the great majority of Victorians would be grateful for such a gesture.

Yours sincerely,

Brigitte Bardot

President

FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT

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