

Country party to support duck hunting

The Country Alliance party says the duck hunting issue could become an issue at the next state election, in 2010.

Country Alliance outdoor recreational spokesperson, Andrew Jones, said the decision not to have a duck hunting season for 2008 was based on departmental advice that was flawed and inconsistent.

“Organisations such as Field and Game Australia provided information which was more accurate, but unfortunately this was obviously not accepted in the final decision,” he said.

“I have no doubt that the city centric anti duck shooting groups such as the Greens, will continue to push for a ban on duck shooting despite the evidence that shows it is not only sustainable but a significant economic issue for country towns.”

Mr Jones said conditions, particularly in Gippsland which had been subject to floods, supported a limited season.

“The conditions which face country Victoria are similar to the conditions we had in 2005, when we had our last duck shooting season.”

“We don’t have confidence in the results of the survey conducted by Richard Kingsford which was used by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, so we might need to put up an alternative model prior to the election,” he said.

Mr Jones said he welcomes the Brumby Government’s support of duck hunting and the Environment Minister’s media release indicating the possibility of a duck hunting season in 2009.

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