

Media Release:

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Waterfowl Hunting Season Starts

The waterfowl hunting season opened yesterday, Wednesday 3 September, with high numbers of hunters on designated Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service waterfowl hunting reserves.

Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service Acting Director Northern Region Parks, Barry Scott, said that the season had a good start with most hunters complying to conditions of their permit related to waterfowl hunting in the Territory.

“Hunters are required to obtain a permit and ensure they follow conditions of that permit - use of lead shot is prohibited on all Parks and Wildlife hunting reserves, and hunters are also responsible for ensuring they do not target protected species,” Mr Scott said.

“While the majority of hunters out there were very responsible and complied with their permit conditions, a few transgressed and infringement notices will be sent to some shooters that were caught doing the wrong thing at the Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve.”

One man is assisting Parks and Wildlife Service with their inquiries after he was allegedly found to be in possession of a Rajah Shelduck (or Burdekin Duck), a protected species, in addition to being in possession of lead shot, which is in breach of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Another man was found to be in possession of lead shot on the hunting reserve and will be issued an infringement notice of \$330 under the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Any person convicted of any wildlife offence will not be able to get a permit for five years.

Throughout the waterfowl hunting season that runs from 3 September 2008 to 28 December 2008 regular joint patrols by Parks and Wildlife Service Officers and Northern Territory Police will be carried out.

Mr Scott said aside from Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve, the remaining reserves reported no transgressions to the permit conditions.

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Service hunting reserves include Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve, Howard Springs Hunting Reserve, Lambells Lagoon and Harrison Dam Hunting Reserve.

For further information go to www.nt.gov.au/waterfowl or call permits on 8999 4795

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Barry Scott on 8999 4518

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