

Media release, January 12 2024

SA inquiry into duck shooting fails the pub test

Opponents of duck shooting have questioned the impartiality of the Select Committee inquiring into the hunting of native birds, after 4 of the 7 committee members were seen wining and dining with shooters. Members included committee chair, Reggie Martin, as well as Ben Hood, Nicola Centofanti and Sarah Game.

The annual Wine and Wild Food Dinner took place on September 23 2023, while the inquiry was still ongoing. Some members also praised the activities of shooters on their social media pages.

“We expect decision-makers to be impartial and fair,” said South Aussies for Animals President Dr Suzanne Pope. “Judges disqualify themselves when there could be a perception that they might not bring an impartial and independent mind to a case.”

“Surely the same standard should apply to parliamentary committees,” Dr Pope added. “I don’t think the behaviour of these committee members passes the pub test. I don’t think we can have any confidence that this committee impartially evaluated the evidence placed before it.”

Dr Pope noted that the extensive evidence of cruelty presented to the committee was all but ignored in its final report, except in the dissenting statements from Tammy Franks and Ian Hunter.

“It is completely unacceptable that this small group of people with links to shooters should determine the future of duck shooting in SA,” said Dr Pope. “We know that duck shooters represent only 0.1% of SA voters, and that a majority of the public is opposed to duck shooting. We saw further evidence of this opposition recently in the review of the Animal Welfare Act, where the primary theme in the “Other Feedback” section was support for a ban on duck shooting.”

“We call on Minister Susan Close to take into account the clear evidence of community expectation, and to reject the report from a group that cannot be perceived as impartial and independent,” Dr Pope concluded. “We can’t allow the large section of society that cares deeply about animal welfare to be effectively disenfranchised.”

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The following photos and comments come from these pages

CHASA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100054325219686&sk=photos>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile/100027305664108/search/?q=CHASA>

<https://www.facebook.com/NicolaCentofantiMLC>

4 <https://www.facebook.com/profile/100080885893136/search/?q=wine%20and%20wild%20food>

Reggie Martin, chair of the Committee



Ben Hood and Nicola Centofanti, Committee members



Sarah Game, Committee member



Sarah Game MLC

September 29, 2023 · 🌐



It was an honour to be asked to speak at the 13th CHASA Wine and Wild Food Dinner.

[Conservation and Hunting Alliance of SA - CHASA](#)



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November 19, 2023



Peter Manuel

Keep up your great work Sarah

14w **Like** **Reply**



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Thank you for attending Sarah. You are a true friend of CHASA.

14w **Like** **Reply**



Nicola Centofanti MLC

September 29, 2023 · 🌐



Wonderful to attend the [Conservation and Hunting Alliance of SA - CHASA](#) annual Wine and Wild Food Dinner tonight with several of my Liberal colleagues.

We, the Opposition, affirmed our continual support for CHASA tonight as an organisation that preserves and promotes, in a respectful way, the rights of hunters to participate in sustainable hunting.

CHASA works with hunting organisations and the South Australian Department for Environment and Water to restore wildlife habitats, guide hunting seasons, develop hunting education, and ensure wildlife is only hunted at sustainable levels.

👏 Congratulations to President Graham Stopp and the entire committee on a wonderful evening.



Ben Hood MLC

September 30, 2023 · 🌐



👏 What an absolute cracker of a night at [CHASA's](#) 13th Annual Wine and Wild Food Gala Dinner.

It was great to catch up with some good mates from home and further afield while enjoying a brilliant three course dinner of wild game.

Well done to Stopp, Westy and the crew for putting on a great night. May conservation and hunting long continue under CHASA's watch.