

Media release

February 2 2024

Labor snubs SA community

Animal welfare advocates are outraged that the Malinauskas government has once again ignored strong community concerns about animal welfare and allowed a duck shooting season in 2024.

“We know that a clear majority of SA voters want to see an end to the killing”, said SAFA President, Dr Suzanne Pope.

“We know this from the consistent results over many years of polling conducted by professional companies, including Roy Morgan, McGregor Tan, ReachTel and Ucomms. A recent survey by the Australia Institute showed that 76% of South Australians supported a ban, and only 13% opposed it.”

Dr Pope pointed out that less than 1 in 1000 SA voters holds a duck shooting permit, raising the question as to why such a small minority holds sway over the government.

“We have to wonder if the close relationship between shooting organisations and certain politicians explains this disproportionate influence,” questioned Dr Pope.

“We were horrified that 4 of the 7 members of the Committee inquiring into duck shooting attended the annual fundraising dinner of the hunting organisation, CHASA.”

“Three of these committee members also had positive comments about CHASA on social media, at a time when they were supposed to be impartially evaluating the evidence about duck shooting presented to the inquiry.”

According to Dr Pope, the committee’s bias was clearly evident in the way their report misrepresented community expectations regarding animal welfare and ignored the volumes of evidence on the wounding and cruelty which is inevitable in duck shooting.

“No wonder so many people are disengaged from politics and hold politicians in low esteem, “ concluded Dr Pope. “We can have no confidence in political representation, democracy and decision-making processes when a small minority can ignore evidence and override clear and demonstrable community values.”

Contact

Dr Suzanne Pope

0420 549 628



Committee chair, Reggie Martin, at the CHASA fundraising dinner in September 2023, while the inquiry into duck shooting was still in progress.