

Media release

Monday, 17 June 2024

2024 Duck season compliance summary

During the 2024 duck season, the Game Management Authority (GMA) conducted 511 waterway and wetland patrols on private and public land across Victoria.

The GMA worked in partnership with Victoria Police, DEECA, Safe Transport Victoria, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Parks Victoria to regulate the 2024 duck season.

Authorised Officers checked more than 1,550 Game Licences and inspected more than 1,200 hunter bags.

A total of 56 breaches were detected throughout the 2024 duck season. GMA will issue 22 infringement notices and is conducting 32 investigations related to these matters.

Twenty-six hunting related offences were detected, with the main offence themes being an invalid Game Licence, being in possession of toxic shot and failing to leave a wing attached.

Twenty-three persons were suspected of breaching public safety laws by entering or remaining in a specified hunting area or hindering or harassing hunters. As a result, the GMA issued 22 Banning Notices.

GMA CEO Graeme Ford said the majority of people involved in the 2024 duck season acted safely and responsibly.

“While some people breached game hunting and public safety laws, most of the people our Authorised Officers spoke with were complying with the law.”

However, there was an increase in the number of suspected breaches to public safety laws detected over the 2024 Season.

“Public safety laws are in place to provide a safe environment for all land users.”

“While those who oppose duck hunting have a right to protest, they must do so safely and legally,” Mr Ford said.

Seven non-hunters are also being investigated for hindering or obstructing an Authorised Officer.

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Summary of 2024 duck season compliance data from 10 April – 5 June 2024

Activity	Number
Total number of wetland and waterway patrols	511
Game and firearms licences checked	1,572
Hunter bags checked	1,213
Hunters who had over-bagged	0
Banning Notices issued	22
Infringement Notices to be issued	22
Briefs or investigations to be conducted	32
Official warnings	2

The GMA uses a range of sanctions to deter illegal hunting and protestor activity, such as official warnings, infringement notices and licence suspensions and cancellations. Some offences may also be prosecuted in court. Any sanctions imposed as a consequence of court proceedings are at the discretion of the courts.

For more information on sanctions to deter illegal hunting and enforce the law, visit [Enforcement Actions](#).

People are urged to [report illegal hunting and illegal protestor activity](#) online or by calling 136 186.