

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate circulation

New hunting reserve to be established under Country Liberal Government

A Country Liberal Government will establish a new hunting reserve, offering recreational waterfowl hunters more opportunities to enjoy this unique Territory pastime. The new reserve's announcement comes as part of the CLP's strategy for hunting in the Territory, Opposition Leader Lia Finocchiaro said today.

"Responsible recreational hunting has always been a hallmark of our unique Territory lifestyle, and a Country Liberal Government will make sure there are opportunities to continue it responsibly into the future. A big part of that is creating a new reserve, in addition to the five existing hunting areas, with input from hunters and other stakeholders," Mrs Finocchiaro said.

A CLP Government will support recreational hunters by:

- Creating a new hunting reserve (waterfowl) in consultation with stakeholders.
- Supporting wetland conservation and weed eradication activities in hunting reserves.
- Reviewing the Magpie Goose Management Plan to ensure reliability of data and the sustainability of hunting well into the future.
- Transferring regulatory responsibility for crop protection permits to the Department for Primary Industry & Resources, streamlining processes for farmers protecting crops through hunting.

In recent years, firearm licence numbers have increased from 700 in 1997 to 3400 today, with no tangible increase in hunting area.

"It's clear that there needs to be a new reserve established for recreational hunting. Its establishment will ease crowding in existing areas and improve hunter safety.

"We recognise the importance of hunting groups engaging in wetland and hunting reserve conservation, cleaning up noxious weeds like Gamba grass and other pollutants. This work ensures the sustainability of flora and fauna within our reserves."

A CLP Government will also review the Magpie Goose Management Plan and ensure that it gives certainty to hunters, while ensuring sustainability. It's imperative that counting surveys are conducted year-round, in the both the wet season and dry season for reliability of data. The constant shifting of the season length and the bag limit up and down is unhelpful in data gathering.

Leader of the Opposition
LIA FINOCCHIARO MLA

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Under a CLP Government, reliable data will be achieved by keeping the variables fixed for five years. Since 2019, the season length has been four months with a bag limit of seven. This will be maintained until the 2023 season, with the addition of an extra count each year to ensure reliability and stability of the data.

“The CLP has a proud history supporting hunting in the Territory and will boost conservation efforts, allowing this pastime to continue into the future,” Mrs Finocchiaro concluded.

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