



CHASA

Chairman: Tony Sharley T: 0418 808475 E: chair@chasa.org.au

Secretary: Tom Vartzokas T: 0418 827895 E: admin@chasa.org.au

Level 1/216 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton SA 5063, web: www.chasa.org.au

7th April 2016

Mr. Rob DiMonte
President and Board Chair
RSPCA South Australia
16 Nelson Street
STEPNEY SA 5069

Dear Ms. Miller,

Re: Comments by RSPCA SA CEO Tim Vasudeva

As Chair of the Conservation and Hunting Alliance of South Australia (CHASA), the peak body representing the hunting community in this State, I have taken the liberty of writing to you as a Board member of RSPCA South Australia to express both my concern and the concern of CHASA's members over the conduct of RSPCA South Australia CEO, Mr Tim Vasudeva.

If correct, Mr Vasudeva's comments as reported by Tim Williams on Page 6 in the Sunday Mail on the 20th March 2016 are extreme, highly offensive and grossly inaccurate.

I attach a copy of the report for your information (Attachment 1).

As is apparent from the report, Mr Vasudeva was commenting in relation to the opening of the 2016 duck hunting season in South Australia. The report states in part:

"THE State Government has no idea how many ducks are shot in hunting season because it is failing to enforce bag limits or make reporting mandatory, animal groups and the Greens say.

The RSPCA estimates up to 30,000 ducks are killed each season, but says it is impossible to be accurate as only 6 per cent of licence holders report catches.

State chief executive Tim Vasudeva said shooters were "sadistic" people who "should be in a hospital somewhere having a psychiatric evaluation".

"There might be a bag limit but you could go and shoot 100 protected ducks and no one would know," he said."

Strong animal welfare ethics are the cornerstone of ethical hunting and any mistreatment of animals is simply not tolerated. Further, apart from owning and caring for working gun dogs many hunters have family members who contribute to the work of the RSPCA. Put simply, the hunting community is offended by Mr Vasudeva's comments and his ill-considered views create a risk of alienating

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members of the community at large. That is a concern to CHASA because a strong and credible RSPCA is an important contributor to society and the welfare of animals in general.

Further, Mr Vasudeva's comments have the potential to offend those members of the community who have the misfortune to be suffering from a psychiatric illness or condition as well as those who care for or live with those individuals. His attempt at linking hunting to sadistic behaviour and psychiatric illness or condition not only threatens further the credibility of RSPCA, they are to be abhorred.

One cannot help but conclude that his outburst is in the nature of a tantrum because hunting conflicts what appears to be his fundamentalist views. Irrespective of his views, as I am sure you will agree, name calling by a CEO is not the measure of a mature and astute CEO with responsibility for governance, partnerships and significant investment by the public and the State Government.

CHASA notes the vision of RSPCA South Australia (Attachment 2) and its ambition for leadership and excellence as well as its mission as a South Australian community charity. Hunters are part of the South Australian community and extreme and offensive comments directed at a part of our community, which can only be interpreted as an attempt to alienate members of the community, are simply unacceptable.

CHASA also notes that the RSPCA estimates that up to 30,000 ducks are killed each season and that Mr Vasudeva suggests protected ducks are taken in South Australia. As to the number of ducks estimated, the figure is errant nonsense and has no basis in fact. Insofar as protected species being taken, the criticism of the Government as being unaware of this potential reflects an ignorance of the true position and again puts the credibility of the RSPCA at risk.

Mr Vasudeva has strayed a long way from the facts given that the State Government invests significant resources to ensure that the duck hunting season is sustainable, adequately policed and does not impact on protected species. That has been the case for more than 100 years.

I trust that you will caution Mr Vasudeva in relation to his conduct which poses a significant risk to the leadership aspirations of the RSPCA and its position as a credible South Australian community organisation.

I remain available to discuss the matter with you should you wish to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Sharley". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Sharley, BSc., MSc., GAICD
CHAIRMAN



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ATTACHMENT 1

Duck hunt controls take a blast

Sunday Mail Adelaide, Adelaide by Tim Williams

20 Mar 2016

General News -page 6 - 194 words – ID 562733467 -Photo: No-Type: News Item -Size:78.00cm 2

THE State Government has no idea how many ducks are shot in hunting season because it is failing to enforce bag limits or make reporting mandatory, animal groups and the Greens say.

The RSPCA estimates up to 30,000 ducks are killed each season, but says it is impossible to be accurate as only 6 per cent of licence holders report catches.

State chief executive Tim Vasudeva said shooters were "sadistic" people who "should be in a hospital somewhere having a psychiatric evaluation".

"There might be a bag limit but you could go and shoot 100 protected ducks and no one would know," he said. Greens MLC Tammy Franks said most shooting was on private land, so the department should do spot checks and make reporting mandatory.

But an Environment Department spokeswoman rejected the claim, saying rangers conducted bag checks and patrols on public and private land.

"Patrols in the Lower Lakes area on opening day showed ...no compliance issues," she said.

"On the whole, SA hunters understand the importance of abiding by permit conditions." The bag limit has been halved to five this year and the season shortened due to environmental conditions.

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ATTACHMENT 2.

RSPCA South Australia

Our Vision

To be the leading South Australian authority that strives for excellence in the standards of care and protection of all animals.

Our Mission

RSPCA South Australia is a community based charity. Our purpose is to:

- Prevent suffering and cruelty to all animals
- Continually and actively promote their care
- Enforce animal welfare legislation in South Australia
- Improve animal welfare legislation in South Australia
- Provide high quality rescue and welfare services
- Raise awareness and lead public debate

Our Purpose

Our work is guided by the Five Freedoms for Animals:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury or disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress



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Ms. Deborah Miller

Ms. Debra Lane

Mr. Giuliano Rech

Mr. Jerry Adams

Ms. Jill Bottrall

Ms. Maria Armstrong

Emeritus Professor Mary Barton AO

Mr. Rob DiMonte

President and Board Chair

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