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Anger as state gives nod to quail shoot

Ian Royall

Wildlife advocates have slammed the state government for giving the green light to hunters to shoot stubble quail for 12 weeks.

The critics have also questioned the announcement being made just before the Easter break.

Shooters will have to adhere to a bag limit of 20 birds a day for the full season, which starts

on Saturday. Stubble quail is a small ground-dwelling bird native to Victoria.

Elizabeth McCann, from the Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting group, described the announcement as “reckless and irresponsible”.

“This decision is a blatant slap in the face to anyone concerned with conservation of a native species,” Ms McCann said. “All the evidence points towards the fact there should

have been a severely restricted quail shooting season, if one at all.”

The group said no long-term count of the bird’s numbers had been carried out.

The decision comes after the government ignored a parliamentary inquiry in January that recommended an end to duck shooting in Victoria.

This year’s duck season will run from April 10 to June 5.

A spokeswoman for Envi-

ronment Minister Steve Dimopoulos said hunting was a legitimate activity.

“It matters to thousands of Victorians who love the great outdoors. Recreational quail and duck hunting is continuing in Victoria with commonsense changes to ensure it remains safe, sustainable and responsible.”

The shoot is regulated by the state’s Game Management Authority, which says it monitored quail populations.