



*Media Release – 19 October 2003      Contact: Sebastian Ziccone – [edited]*

## **HERALD SUN LETTER SPARKS CONTROVERSY**

A letter published in the Herald Sun earlier this month has sparked anger among shooters over a Freedom of Information Request lodged with the Department of Primary Industries.

On 3 October, the Herald Sun published a letter from in which the writer stated that the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee had recommended a permanent ban on duck season.

The Combined Firearms Council of Victoria said it had requested similar information under the Freedom Of Information Act in May, relating to the Department's decision to close the 2003 duck hunting season, including any recommendations made by the Committee.

"The response from the Department, which was dated 26 June and only received by the CFCV last week, exempted every single document held by the Department from release," said CFCV President, Sebastian Ziccone.

"It seems extremely odd that a formal request through the appropriate channels failed to turn up any documents - not even an email or post-it note - yet there are some in the community who clearly have greater access to this information than is available to those affected by it," he said.

Mr Ziccone said he intends to raise this matter with the Ombudsman.

For more information, Sebastian Ziccone, [edited]