



## LABOR MPs QUIZZED OVER SPLINTER GROUP

Shooters say that they have not found any Victorian Labor State or Federal Members of Parliament willing to support members of their own party who are opposed to duck shooting.

Bill Paterson from the Combined Firearms Council said his Council surveyed Labor MPs after media outlets reported that some of them had thrown their support behind a push by the group, ALP Members Opposed to Duck Shooting, to ban the sport.

“This was inconsistent with the overwhelming support the MPs gave to duck shooting at their party’s State Conference in 2004,” he said.

“We therefore decided to find out if the stories were true by surveying all Victorian State and Federal Labor MPs,” he said.

Mr Paterson said The Age and the Herald Sun have since published corrections, after the Council brought the matter to their attention.

“The survey we conducted found that no Labor MPs were part of the group. One MP went to great lengths to distance his party and Government from the group,” he said.

“It is now clear that the group consists of a small number of ordinary party members who simply disagree with their party’s policy. It is also clear they have constructed a name for the group which has led people – and some parts of the media - to believe they include Members of Parliament.”

Mr Paterson said that it should be of concern to the ALP leadership that party members have taken their grievance public using the party’s name, rather than resolving it internally.

He said he hopes that the party will address this issue before the start of this year’s duck hunting season.

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