

# Claim Your Spot



## Best practice for claiming your public water hunting spot with a claim tag.

If you are hunting on public land and want to secure the right to hunt a specific spot for the season, you must mark it with your claim tag. Below are some key points outlining best practice for claiming a hunting location.

### How to tag your hunting location

When you purchase your gamebird hunting licence, you can choose to be issued a claim tag. If you want to secure a hunting spot on public land, select this option.

To mark your location, place your tag in a visible spot in or near your maimai or intended hunting area. For example:

- Screw it onto the inside of your maimai.
- If you are not using a maimai, attach it to a wooden stake or waratah at your chosen location, such as a patch of scrub.

Make sure your tag is clearly visible to indicate that the spot is claimed.

### Tag early if returning to your previous hunting location

If you plan on tagging the same location you tagged last season, you don't need to wait until 'markup' day to re-tag. Purchase your licence early and secure your spot as soon as possible. Make sure to take a time-stamped photo or video of your tag in place, positioned next to last year's tag, for reference. This can help us resolve any disputes between hunters should they arise.

### Tagging a new hunting location

If you are interested in tagging a new location spend some time looking around to ensure there is no tag already there. Claim tags are meant to be visible but there can be issues with foliage getting in the way. If you are claiming a new location, you must wait until

10am on mark-up day. This date changes from year to year but is typically late March/early April. Ensure your tag is placed securely and capture a time-stamped photo or video showing the tag and the surroundings for reference. Remember, your new tagged location must be at least 90m away from another tagged location. Note also that you can tag anytime during hunting season if no one else has claimed the site.

### Be friendly and cooperative

If you do encounter another hunter at or near your desired hunting spot, remember to keep things cordial. Approach them in a friendly manner, introduce yourself, and discuss things politely. It's not uncommon for groups of hunters to successfully share hunting areas. Remember, your fellow hunters share your passion for waterfowl hunting, and a little cooperation can go a long way.

### Resolving tagging disputes

If a dispute arises, get in touch with your local Fish & Game office as soon as possible. The sooner we know about an issue, the better chance we have of understanding the facts and helping you reach an agreement before opening weekend. Please remember, there's little Fish & Game can do to resolve disputes on the eve of opening weekend, so act quickly if problems occur.

### Important note

You can only claim one stand. If using a printed receipt for a temporary claim tag this needs to be replaced with the plastic tag.