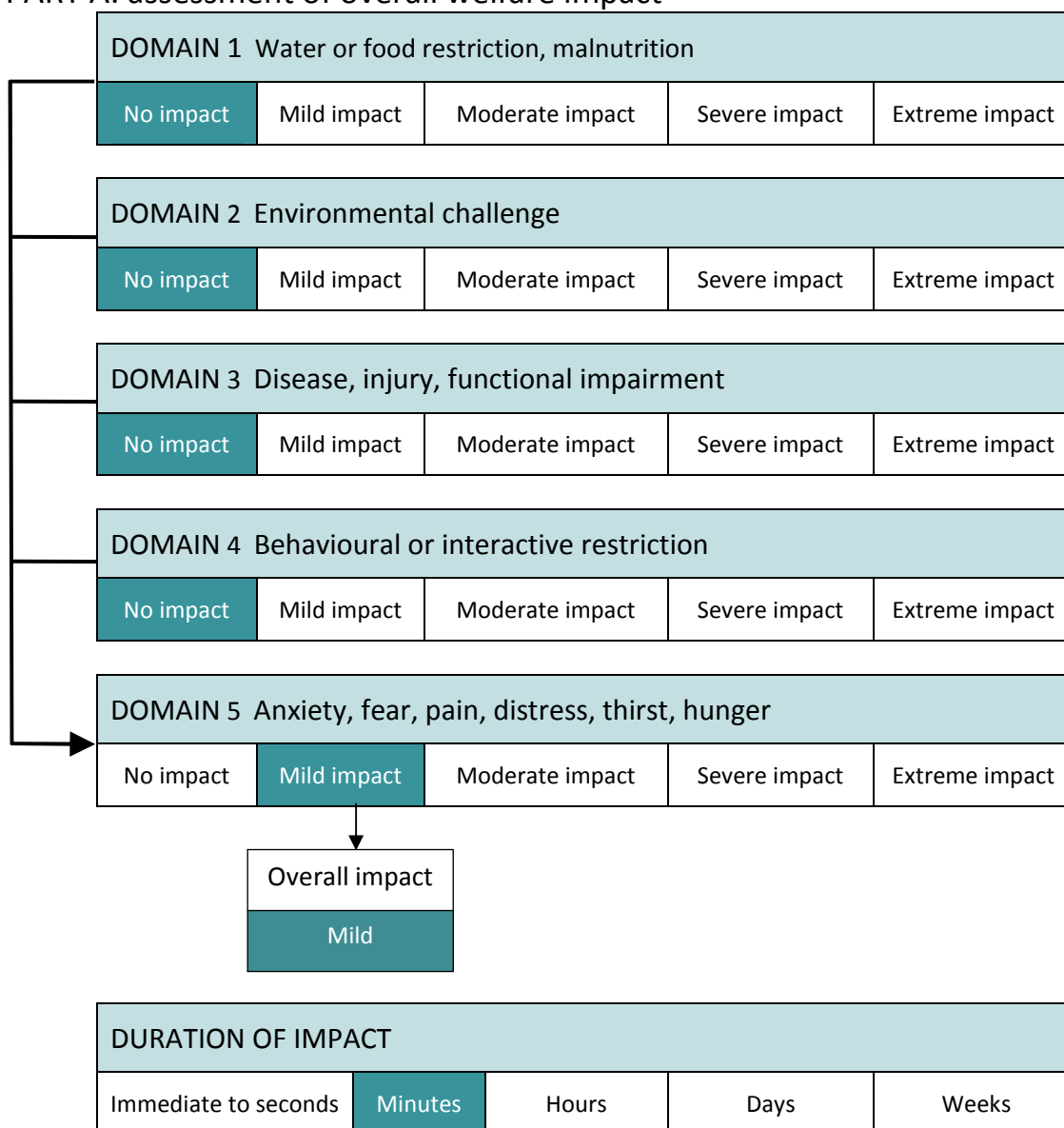


Control method: Shooting of pest birds (small to medium)

Assumptions:

- Best practice is followed in accordance with BIR001 and the shooter is competent and will make accurate decisions about whether the shot can be successfully placed.
- Firearms, ammunition and effective shooting ranges (as outlined in the standard operating procedure) are followed. Not adhering to these guidelines will result in less humane outcomes.
- For small to medium birds such as starlings and ducks, the preferred method is a shot to the body of the bird with a shotgun.
- When firing, only single animals are targeted, not the group.
- Shooting is conducted in daylight hours.
- The impacts in Part A of the assessment were considered on the group of birds being targeted – the first bird would be naïve but the impact would increase with each subsequent bird.

PART A: assessment of overall welfare impact



| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| SCORE FOR PART A: | 3 |
| Summary of evidence: | |
| Domain 1 | No impact in this domain. |
| Domain 2 | No impact in this domain. |
| Domain 3 | No impact in this domain. |
| Domain 4 | No impact in this domain. Shooting often occurs during flight. |
| Domain 5 | The evasive action of other birds indicates a fear response. |

PART B: assessment of mode of death

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Time to insensibility (minus any lag time) | | | | |
| Very rapid | Minutes | Hours | Days | Weeks |
| Level of suffering (after application of the method that causes death but before insensibility) | | | | |
| No suffering | Mild suffering | Moderate suffering | Severe suffering | Extreme suffering |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| SCORE FOR PART B: | B |
| Summary of evidence: | |
| Duration – | With shotguns, range is the major determinant of wounding capacity using any given load ^{1, 2} . If the bird is shot from an effective range the dense shot pattern is likely to cause death rapidly. Death occurs from damage to vital organs, haemorrhage and shock. Note that a small number of birds may be wounded and will require follow-up (i.e. a second shot or blow to the head) - for these birds the time to death could be minutes. |
| Suffering – | The severity and lethality of the gunshot depends on the number of pellets that enter the body, the organs struck and the amount of tissue destruction ³ . If birds are rendered insensible immediately with a well-placed shot from an effective range there should be no suffering. Note that a small number of birds may be wounded and will require follow-up (i.e. a second shot or blow to the head) - for these birds the level of suffering has been graded as moderate. |

Summary

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| CONTROL METHOD: | Shooting of pest birds (small to medium) |
| OVERALL HUMANENESS SCORE: | 3B |
| Comments | |

Bibliography

1. Wilson, J.M. (1978). Shotgun ballistics and shotgun injuries. *Western Journal of Medicine* **129**, 149-155
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3. Merck, M.D. (2007). *Veterinary forensics: animal cruelty investigations*. (Blackwell Publishers: Iowa).