

Public Administration Committee

From: Responsible Hunter
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 4:15 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Hunters support for protection of native flora and fauna

Dear Ms Mesiti,

I am a recreational shooter with 38 years safe, and responsible hunting experience in both this State and overseas. I have also been employed by the Government in feral animal control.

Firstly, let's be clear that the identified "victims of hunting for sport", and currently "at risk", are ALL declared INTRODUCED vermin species, that are NOT native to WA (or Australia for that matter!). In fact each of these identified, INTRODUCED, species presently cause severe ecological destruction to NATIVE AUSTRALIAN HABITATS and SPECIES!!! The destruction thus far caused has required legislation to be enacted to enable the effective neutralisation of such introduced species upon the native Australian flora and fauna. In prohibiting the safe, responsible management of wild specie populations on government lands by responsible hunters, those vermin specie populations will expand to over populate their environmental biomass.

This in turn causes an increased threat to affected (competing) native species, and cause both the native and introduced vermin species to encroach into, and destroy, farmers' crops. The compounding effect also upsets the ecological niches of other wild native species in their quest simply to survive. Farmers on the other hand, after a long day in their fields, do not have the physical energy to return home, change clothes, and then go out and patrol their crops at night (when most vermin are active) to shoot vermin invading and destroying their crops. To prohibit hunters access into introduced vermin specie "refuges" (Govt land and reserves) is to constrict and minimise that accessible land legally available to control introduced vermin specie populations.

My brother, who was recently a Biomass Security Officer (BSO) - the polite euphemism for a "paid government shooter to kill animals enmasse"! - knows first hand how he and his colleagues Australia-wide are simply overwhelmed by desperate pleas from farmers to go and wipe-out such introduced vermin populations from their lands! No matter how successful their local control measures are, introduced vermin specie populations again skyrocket (in the population vacuum left behind) from the nearby Government owned reserves and lands. The analogy here is exactly like a man putting out a bushfire using only a cup-full of water at a time, from a fixed tap 200m away.

Might I remind you that these BSOs use strychnine and other poisons (ie: RDHs) in AN ATTEMPT to control introduced vermin numbers - regardless of the inhumane way death to the individual animal is caused. Many of the poisons used actually cause agonising slow deaths by either massive internal haemorrhaging (RHDs) or a slow necrosis of the internal organs! Compare that to recreational hunters who go out in their OWN time, and at their OWN expense, with expensive firearms (that have met exhaustive and expensive licensing procedures!) in order to provide a FREE service to farmers, the community AND the economic stability of Australia (Don't forget, destroyed crops push up the local and export prices of vermin affected produce in the primary industry sector!). With such enormous personal input of time, money, licensing and permissions sort - the last thing the recreational hunter wants to do is wound, injure or leave behind an animal. On the contrary, the hunter wants to take home his quarry in the same way a fisherman puts in the effort to take home his catch!!!

Please remember, that as these people are paying out of their own pocket (for equipment, firearms, ammunition, fuel ect) and their own time - it's highly improbable that they all wound, injure and leave vermin behind - as many vermin are delicious to eat (rabbits, pigs, goat, deer and camels amongst others). To say that vermin are simply left behind is an untruth! As stated, the analogy of the recreational fisherman is a clear and accurate example. To level such an accusation of cruelty or neglect is motivated from a purely emotive and sensationalist perspective and purpose! I still find it hypocritical that the animal cruelty activists do NOT level these same accusations of cruelty

down at their local Coles or Woolwoths meat section; local KFC or McDonalds; and I have yet to see one outside an abbatoir or prime rib restaurant!! But to be fair, I have seen many such - hypocritical - animal cruelty activists at these and other locations either buying, or sitting down to eat, a plate-ful of their favourite meat products!!!

You may argue that the various Agricultural and Environmental Agencies in Australia have invented effective vermin control programs (poisons, poison baits etc) to make redundant the essential need of recreational hunters - but you would be absolutely WRONG!!! In the entire history of Australian vermin control, NOT A SINGLE measure has proved either effective or successful in controlling or eradicating a single vermin species from Australia!! Miximitosis, "1080", Calicivirus, aerial fox and cat baiting, dingo baiting etc etc have ALL entirely failed!! Cane toads are now proving - AGAIN - that ALL Government Agencies are powerless to stop an introduced vermin species from over population OR containment!! So, excluding Government lands from recreational hunters will only provide these introduced vermin species (including Cane Toads) with safe refuges for their rapid population expansion!! If your proposal comes to pass, maybe Australia will evermore refer to your ecological and economic blunder as "The Mesiti Blunder"?

Don't be an idiot Ms Mesiti and deny Australia an effective means of vermin control in the form of recreational hunters on Government lands!!! Their dedication to their activity is both a measure of their investment of time, effort and responsibility - AND - that which is provided, to the Australian society and economy, FREE OF CHARGE!!!!

Regards,
Responsible Hunter