

Public Administration Committee

From: Rob Filippi
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2014 3:39 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Attention: Lauren Mesiti

RE: Inquiry in to Recreational Hunting on WA Lands

Dear Ms Mesiti,

I would like to make my views known to the Committee holding an inquiry into allowing recreational hunting on public lands in Western Australia.

As a WA resident, I am strongly in favour of the recreational hunting of all introduced & feral species of animals (non native species).

Recreational hunting, conducted humanely by well trained & experienced individuals, at their own expense, is a highly cost effective control method for reducing numbers of vermin species, which no sensible population or government should ignore. Especially given that WA, commensurate to it's vast area, currently has an enormous feral/vermin problem, which causes great environmental & commercial damage.

Furthermore, not only should regular people have the right to cull such pest species for the greater good, but they should also have the opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to otherwise hunt game for consumption. Hunting for food is one of mankind's oldest pursuits, & is still highly valued as a productive use of a readily available resource, no different to fishing, & banning or severely restricting it, is in my opinion, akin to suppressing mankind's right to create, harness, & utilise fire. I.e: it is egregious & unacceptable.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting/hunting may also generate funds to assist in the repopulation of native flora & fauna species in the affected areas when these areas become void of the targeted introduced species.

I believe that WA public lands will be kept safe for all members of the community, because responsible shooting has been proven to be an effective management tool in other Australian States, & is done so safely, & under strict guidelines which ensure public safety.

Finally, I support recreational shooting as a solution for the management of introduced species. This is supported as an effective approach by scientific evidence when used in conjunction with other control methods.

Importantly, trained conservation volunteer shooters are a cost effective resource who provide their time, equipment, ammunition, & resources, without charge, thus freeing up much needed funds that can be used elsewhere.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature. There are hundreds of thousands who regularly like to fish and hunt. So please allow this cost effective and result driven proposal to succeed.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Rob Filippi