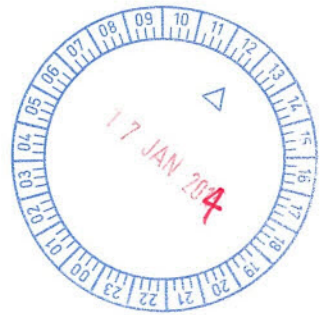


PUBLIC

upon tabling of Committee's Report

19/2/14



Lauren Mesiti
Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth, WA.... 6000.

Re : Inquiry into Recreational Hunting Systems – Public Lands

Dear Chairperson,

I wish to lodge the following submission in favour of the proposal, put by the Hon. Rick Mazza.

The proposal is a good one and the Legislative mechanisms & the “ Permit Books “ are already in place. We are not talking about re-inventing the wheel. Back in the 1970’s & 1980’s, it was common place for permits to be issued by the then, Forestry Dept, to hunt feral pigs in State Forests here in WA..... I personally obtained many such permits to hunt in the State Forests around Dwellingup, as did several of my friends. From memory, this system was “ suspended “ back in the late 1980’s by the Department concerned, just as a matter of **Policy Change!** I am not sure of the reasons why, but suspect it was something to do with Dieback in the Jarrah Forests & **Public Liability Concerns**. I know that the “ System “ & the Permit books still exist, as I personally obtained one a few years back, for a slightly different purpose, but none the less, discharging a Firearm in State Forest. I also know of several selected pig hunters who have been given such permits in recent years.

Hunting in Public Lands, State Forests & National Parks has existed in Victoria forever, as it has in New Zealand, Tasmania and the Northern Territory and for a few years now in NSW.

The Cultural, recreational and **Economic** benefits to the Community, Government and Taxpayer, of such a system are enormous. Whether the “ Anti’s “ like it or not, hunting is a part of the natural instinct of the human race and has been since Adam was a lad..... it is just a “ Natural “ thing to do. It is also a great recreational activity that gets people out into the bush. Plenty of exercise and fresh air, instead of sitting in front of the TV or computer!

Economic Benefits : At the moment, it costs the Government millions of taxpayer’s dollars to control feral animals on Public Lands, as Recreational Hunters are currently “ locked out “. It is either paid Government employees or paid private companies that control these feral animals! The Recreational Hunter would perform this service free of charge. All that would be required, is a couple of dedicated staff from the current Department to co-ordinate these hunting and culling activities.

Benefits to Local Communities : As is the case in New Zealand and the other States in Australia, where this is allowed, these Recreational Hunters bring with them lots of dollars into the towns and their businesses, such as buying food, fuel, camping supplies and patronizing local accommodation and restaurants..... I will give you a prime example. In 1999, Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Inc, finally won a long hard battle to establish a target shooting complex about 7 kms out of the town site. There were a handful of local residents who were opposed to it..... now they love us!

With a membership base of just over 500, that Club brings in excess of 200 people through the town every weekend. These Club members stop at the 2 General Stores and buy food, drinks, meals and fuel. After a shoot and on the way home, many stop at the Jarrahdale Tavern for a meal and a few drinks..... the local businesses love the fact that the Club is there, as it has been a lifeline for them. The proposal is a "win- win" for all concerned. At the moment, the Water Corporation and Dept of Parks and Wildlife uses traps and poison baits to kill these animals, which is extremely cruel and inhumane. On the other hand, one shot from a high powered rifle, in the hands of a proficient hunter, is an instantaneous and clean kill. One second the animal is alive and the next second, it is in piggy heaven! Whilst on this subject, I don't think that bows or crossbows should be incorporated into this system. I don't personally, have anything against bow hunting, but the fact is that a bow and the arrow kill by severing, cutting and bleeding and from my experience, it doesn't matter how good the operator is or the quality of his bows and arrows, it is not a clean kill like a suitably powered rifle.

Minimum Calibres : If you want to get a permit to go hunting in a National Park or State Forest in New Zealand, there is a minimum calibre rifle you can take in to hunt Feral Pigs, Goats or Deer and that is, a .243 Winchester cartridge firing an 87 Grain projectile..... Larger cartridges are preferred. The reason for this is to minimise cruelty to the animals and ensure that the shot is a clean and humane kill. You can, in fact, get into trouble if you are caught with a .22 rim fire rifle, unless your permit was "specifically" for possum shooting..... once again, it is all about a humane clean kill, not wounding animals a causing them to suffer.

As an example, DPWS already has a similar requirement for professional kangaroo shooters here in WA. The minimum calibre is .223 Remington and for head shots only. Kangaroos are a different situation compared to Feral Pigs, Goats and Deer..... for foxes and Feral cats, yes.

Public Liability Insurance and " Approved " Organizations:

I see this as a very important point and for that reason, at this stage, I don't think that permits should be issued to just anyone who has a Firearm Licence. The only 3 organizations that I can think of at this stage, for the purpose of this proposal would be the Sporting Shooters Association, The Australian Deer Association and the WA Field and Game Association, all of whom have a \$20 Million Public Liability Insurance Cover for their members, either on a Range or in the Field.

Any of these Associations, I am sure, would be happy to co-ordinate with DPWS and qualify members to be able to participate in these activities. They could, for example, issue competency certificates to members to satisfy DPWS requirements including basic map reading & compass skills and basic understanding of dieback problems, although DPWS seem to have given up on that now.

Conditions on Permits:

Apart from the Minimum Calibre of Firearms mentioned above, I would also suggest the following as examples.

NO LITTERING: Anything you bring in with you, you take out! No cans, bottles or plastic to be left in the bush.

CREEKLINES: No animal carcasses to be left within 50 metres of any creek line or water source.

FIRES: No camp fires to be lit.

I am attaching examples of two NZ Hunting Permits just FYI. One is for Hunting in State Forests and the other, for Hunting in a National Park.


The format and conditions on the back may be of some help.

I am willing to appear before the Committee should it require any further information or clarification on any matter.

My Credentials : Founding & Committee member of the SSAA here in WA and Hon. Life Member.
Founding & Committee member of the WA Field & Game Association
Founding President of Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Inc & Hon. Life Member.

I would be most grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission.

Yours sincerely,

 Ross Allanson

16.1.2014

ATT "A"



PERMIT No. 91

THIS permit authorises (holder) *Butler; Odey, Allison*of (address) *C/- Fire Station Rotorua*

to enter

area or block *3* for the purpose of *hunting*on and from *7/4/1976* for *2* days, subject to the conditionsbelow and overleaf: *no fire and return**permit return kill*Issued by: *[Signature]*Date of issue: *7/4/76*

Signature of holder:

THIS PERMIT is not valid until signed by the holder and must be carried on the person and produced on demand.

IMPORTANT TO HUNTERS

Upon expiry of this permit, use the reply-paid form provided to apply for a renewal. You will assist us by always completing the kill return section of the form, even when no animals have been obtained. Please use block letters and complete all sections of the form in order that your new permit may be mailed to you promptly.

WARNING—River levels can rise without warning downstream of hydro-electric dams and control works.

Hunters—Identify your target beyond all possible doubt.

READ REVERSE SIDE CAREFULLY



**FIREARMS KILL
ACCIDENT PREVENTION IS YOUR
RESPONSIBILITY**

ATT "B"

SHOOTING PERMIT No. 6 back 5

Date of issue: 9-14-75

This permit authorises:
(Name/s and address/es)

R. J. Allanson
96 Ranch Rd Mt. Maunganui

to shoot noxious animals in Urewera National Park on and from 9/1/75 for 5 days
Subject to the conditions hereunder and on the back hereof.
Conditions:

Issued by:

Geo Allanson
Park Ranger/Forest Officer

This permit is valid only if the holder is over the age of 16 years, and in the event of doubt, proof of age must be furnished. It is not valid until signed by the holder, and must be carried on the person and produced on demand.

Signature of holder: R. J. Allanson

Upon expiry of this permit the number of animals killed, area in which they were killed and time spent in the area should be recorded in the space below.

The permit must be returned to the N.Z. Forest Service, P.O. Box 1340, Rotorua, even if no hunting was done or no animals killed. A free stamped and addressed envelope is provided with the permit for this purpose. The information is needed for future planning. Any comments or information on forest growth, vegetation, bird and animal life, would be appreciated.

Animals Killed

Area hunted

Days spent in area

Deer

Goats

Opossums

Others (Stoats, hares, etc)

General comments:

ATT "B"
REVERSE
SIDE

CONDITIONS

1. No firearm other than a rifle may be taken into the park. Such rifle may not be of the rimfire, low power, small calibre type.
2. This permit is issued subject to the condition that the holder willingly accepts all risks of injury to himself or damage to property which may arise out of the exercise of this permit to shoot in the Park, and will indemnify the Park Board against any claims which may be made against the Board in respect of any damage or injury arising out of the exercise of this permit by the permit holder. The onus is on the permit holder to ensure that a firearm is not used in a manner likely to endanger other persons using the park.
3. Shooting from any boat or on or across any road or the Waikareiti, Tawa and Ngamoko tracks is prohibited.
4. Spotlight shooting or any form of shooting with the assistance of artificial light is prohibited in any part of the Park.
5. Lake Waikaremoana is a Wildlife Refuge and no shooting is permitted on the lake. This permit, however, authorises the holder to take his rifle into the Refuge if it is necessary for him to cross the lake in order to reach the area in which he wishes to shoot.
6. Where access across private or Maori land is necessary, the prior permission of the owner or occupier must be obtained.
7. No dogs may be taken into the Park.
8. The greatest care must be exercised at all times with fires. Permit holders responsible for fires getting out of control may be held liable for damage caused and for expense incurred in fire fighting in addition to any fines imposed. Immediately any fire endangering the Park is noticed the holder shall leave the area and report the position and extent of the fire.
9. Permit holders shall be deemed to have knowledge of the Park By-laws. Relevant provisions of the By-laws and other Statutes are as follows:—
 - (1) All plants, trees and birds are absolutely protected.
 - (2) Standing timber must not be cut. Only dead timber may be used for firewood.
 - (3) No person shall remove, disturb, cut names, letters, words, figures or devices on, or deface any buildings, bridges, natural features or trees or any object natural or otherwise within the limits of the Park.
 - (4) No person shall interfere with any marker, sign or notice in or relating to the Park. Shooting at signs or track markers is an offence under the National Parks Act, 1952.
 - (5) No person shall in any building in the Park, act or use the same other than in a cleanly and decent manner, or write anything profane, indecent or obscene in any visitors' book belonging to the Board.
 - (6) Camp sites, huts and tracks must be kept free from rubbish, which must be burned or buried wherever possible.
10. If the holder commits any breach of the conditions of this permit or is convicted of any offence within the Park he will be prohibited from obtaining further permits to shoot in the Park for a period of up to five years at the Board's discretion.

BE SURE BEFORE YOU SHOOT! REMEMBER THAT OTHER SHOOTERS, TRAMPERS, ANGLERS AND OTHERS MAY BE IN THE AREA COVERED BY THIS PERMIT. THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CARE MUST THEREFORE BE TAKEN WITH FIREARMS AT ALL TIMES. HUMAN SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AND IT IS YOUR DUTY TO IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET BEYOND ALL POSSIBLE DOUBT.