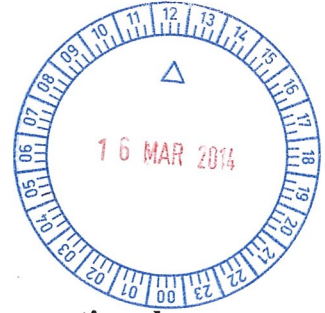


Submission Prepared by:

John Marshall,



## **Inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems**

### **Terms of Reference**

That the Council -

(a) acknowledges the use in other States of regulated, licensed recreation hunting systems and the potential environmental contribution made in controlling pest animals on public lands, together with the possible economic, cultural and recreational benefits to the community; and

(b) directs that -

(i) the Public Administration Committee inquire into the benefits or otherwise of a similar system being adopted in Western Australia and report back to the House by 4 December 2014; and

(ii) Hon Rick Mazza be co-opted as a member to the Public Administration Committee for the purposes of the foregoing inquiry.

### **Background:**

I am a 43 year old school teacher who has hunted pest species on pastoral species throughout Western Australia. I have experience in shooting feral pest species such as donkeys, camels, pigs, dogs, cats, foxes and rabbits. I am a financial member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia, the Australian Deer Association and The Shooters and Fishers Party.

For the past three years I have travelled interstate and contributed significant amounts of dollars into the economies of the Northern Territory and Victoria whilst hunting both pest and game species. In the Northern Territory I have legally hunted Magpie Goose and declared duck species in the four public hunting reserves on the outskirts of Darwin. This is seasonal well regulated public hunting done under a permit system. In Victoria I have hunted Sambar deer, Fallow deer, rabbit, fox and waterfowl under a game permit system. To be able to hunt waterfowl in Victoria I had to pass a Waterfowl Identification Test examination. Each of these trips cost me between \$2000 to \$4000 on each occasion, with the majority of this money spent interstate.

### **My recommendations to the inquiry are:**

1. That the inquiry recommend to government that public land, particularly remote un-allocated crown land, areas in the Gascoyne-Murchison region and state forest in the South-west are made available for the hunting of pest species.
2. That the committee recommend that licences are issued to those wishing to hunt on any public land made available for hunting.

3. That the committee recommend that a licence to hunt pest species on unallocated crown land, state forest or other public land areas should be accepted as a "genuine reason" for the issuing of a firearms licence.
4. That the committee recommend that regulations are put in place to support the concept of "fair chase", humane hunting practices, hunter/community safety and the utilisation of game meat.
5. That the committee recommend that government, with the support of the hunting organisations, provide hunters with education opportunities which emphasise hunting and shooting skills, target identification, hunter safety, animal welfare and conservation.
6. That the committee recommend that any hunter management regime adopted be open to all, whether member of a hunting organisation or not, and is kept as simple and all-encompassing as possible so that the administrative costs and barriers to participation are minimised.
7. That the committee recommend a regulated hunting system in state forests and public land similar to the R licence system in NSW. Hunters register and book using a booking system, keeping numbers regulated and at a manageable level at any one time.
8. That the committee recommend that hunters wear mandatory orange blaze as part of their hunting attire.

## **Conclusion**

I am passionate about reducing the damage feral pest species due to our native wildlife and the native environment, and have and will continue to donate my own time, resources and money to do so. Increased opportunities in WA for this legal, healthy pastime would be welcomed by not just law abiding firearms owners but also pastoralists and farmers whose properties adjoin these public land areas where invasive species such as donkeys, camels, pigs, rabbits, foxes, cats and wild dogs are currently breeding with limited intervention.

I would like to be sent a copy of the committee's findings.

Thank you for your consideration,

Regards,

John Marshall  
16/3/2014