

RECREATIONAL HUNTING AND SHOOTING — PUBLIC LANDS

Petition

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [2.52 pm]: I rise to table a petition regarding a ban on recreational shooting and hunting on public lands. The petition bears 906 signatures, and it reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, note the current ban on the use of our public lands for recreational shooting and hunting and the following rationale:

- According to many experts, including the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Australia is facing an extinction crisis. Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world: 29 native mammals have become extinct since European settlement. To put this in a global context, 1 out of 3 mammal extinctions in the last 400 years have occurred in Australia.
- Illegal recreational shooting and hunting has already led to the introduction on public land of ecosystem destroying exotic species like pigs and goats. Any change to our current laws will further jeopardise the future of our native species.
- Tourists, bushwalkers, mountain bikers and others seeking to enjoy our public lands will have their rights diminished. The mere sound of gunfire is an unwanted intrusion; people will no longer feel safe entering areas such as National Parks, State Forests or unallocated crown land.
- If recreational shooting and hunting on public land is legalised the demand for guns will rise and lead to the establishment of an American style gun culture. No right minded Australian wants to see that.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the State Government to reject any calls for permission to be given to those wishing to go shooting and recreational hunting on our public lands.

The petition has been certified as conforming to the standing orders of the house.

[See petition 216.]