Dear Ms. Mesti

I write to you in regard to hunting on public land in Western Australia.

With the implementation of hunting on public land, comes more responsibility and commitment from recreation hunters to abide by any guidelines or laws set in place. As licensed firearms owners and dedicated hunters, we value our firearms licenses and our sport.

Because of the stringent vetting and safeguards put in place by WAPOL to only license firearms owners they deem fit and trustworthy .It seems to me that half the debate is already over. Firearms owners are deemed by WAPOL to be of good character without a criminal background and capable of handling a firearm safely. Taking this into account means the only real debate should be on how hunting on public land is implemented and controlled.

The issue of public safety can be addressed by proper control, notifications and stringent safety procedures. It has worked in other countries for many years and if it is overseen by the correct organization or government body can work here.

There will be many who suggest that hunting on public land will create a culture or gun toting killers roaming the forests, shooting anything that moves. I have been hunting for some time now and have found hunters to be more into conserving the native wild life and protecting the environment than most average people. We are in essence protecting the sport we love by looking after the environment and therefore ensuring our sports future.

If you have ever had the privilege of listening to a group of serious hunters discussing their latest hunting exploits, you will feel the love of the sport, the environment and our native animals in their voices. You will also hear the frustration and pain when discussing the damage introduced feral pests cause.

If it is implemented in the correct way, and managed correctly, there can be no problems with hunting on public land. It is only a matter of how it is controlled and who controls it that should be at the point of discussion.

Kind Regards

Wayne Higgs