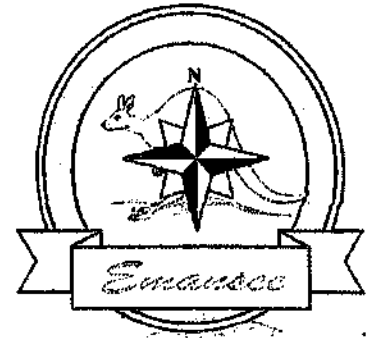


Merv & Chris Scally,



3rd September, 2013

The Chair,
Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation,
GPO Box A11,
PERTH, W.A. 6837

Re = Increase in Firearm License fees

Sir,

As a licensed firearm's owner, member of three hunting clubs , member of Sporting Shooters Association of Australia , volunteer (A C A)Animal Control Agent for (D E C) Department of Environment And Conservation (main duties being the euthanasia of injured kangaroos by shooting) and a Hunter Education Assessor for The N.S.W. Game Council here in W.A.

I am writing to strongly express my concerns in relation to the fee increases for firearm licensing in Western Australia. I firmly believe they are discriminatory, outrageous and are nothing more than a political injustice by the Government and Police Service, towards registered legal firearm owners in Western Australia

There is little regard being shown for legitimate licensed hunters/shooters, and in the past the Firearms Branch have been obstructive, antagonistic in displaying no civil respect what so ever towards legal owners and in fact officers going outside the written laws and guidelines when dealing with licensing matters in their attempt to discourage gun ownership. Being a member of hunting clubs who's members are fully tested, trained and certificated before being allowed to participate in club feral animal control on government and private land with the signed authority for clubs to enter and hunt these animals and pests and I add, no cost what so ever to the land holder, and by doing so we are contributing to the preservation of the environment and protecting primary producers and last but not least saving the West Australian State Government many, many dollars in vermin and pest control by licensed legal legitimate hunters.....

I have attached records of the three clubs I am involved in showing the contribution they have in feral and pest animal reduction. to date this year 2013

The main species being,
Fox , 340 Total to date for 2013
Pig, 55 Total to date for 2013
Rabbit, 310 Total to date for 2013

These figures I believe must be taken into account in the decision relating to the increase of firearm licence and future rewriting of the Firearms Act and Regulations., consideration should also be introduced for pensioner rebates ,simular to what is custom with other government fees and charges

I add here that a case of Fox Measles has recently been discovered at Katanning which can be spread from foxes to sheep and if this happens, has potential to drastically affect sheep farmers and the meat industry, recreation hunters continued contribution can assist largely in reducing fox numbers.

High fees and unnecessary tough laws and regulations would be highly unjust and discriminatory *against licensed firearm owners taking into account our free no charge contribution to the State of Western Australia as a whole.*

Finally the main problem relating to firearms in Australia as a whole is not the licensed guns but the illegal firearms out in the street held by the criminal section of our society and we the legal owners should not be penalized and considered a soft touch to satisfy those who have a tunnel vision on gun control, not the facts.

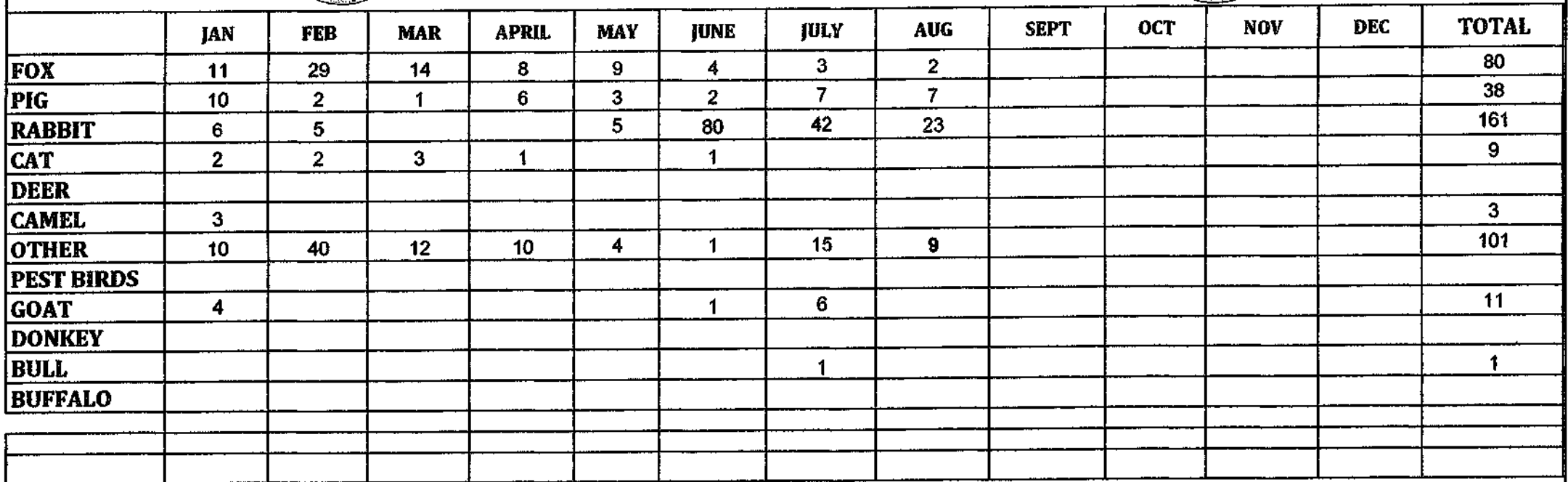
The current licensing procedure has been nothing but a complete mess and it has been shown repeatedly that the Police Service and Australia Post are not competent in having the responsibility of being involved in the licensing of firearms in Western Australia, I would like to suggest that this responsibility be handed over to Local Government and Councils be responsible for the receiving and issuing of licenses and the Police Service only be involved in the enforcement of the Act where required, this would in fact be a huge saving to the Government and Police Service plus releasing officers to more appropriate duties.

I add here that the person should be licensed in any future new laws not the firearm and the details of firearms only be recorded as being held by the licensee

I urge you sir, and the Joint Standing Committee to disallow the increases due to them being unjust, unnecessary, discriminatory, and it be recognized the free contribution hunters provide in relation to assisting in the reduction of feral and pest animals in Western Australia be taken into consideration in coming to this decision

Thanking you
Yours truly

M.W. Scally



FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

PEEL HUNTING & CONSERVATION . INC

		Animal										
		Foxes	Rabbits	Cats	Dogs	Pigs	Goats	Deer	Pigeons	Corella	Camel	
Total Project		115	48	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total Non Project		105	35	9	0	4	18	0	0	0	0	
Grand Total	20/06/13	220	83	12	0	11	18	0	0	0	0	

SWH&C Group Report on Vermin Tally

Area of Interest

Area of Interest	Vermin	Count	Notes	Area of Interest	Vermin	Count	Notes