



Hon Albert Jacob MLA
Minister for Environment; Heritage

Our Ref: 50-07360

Hon Liz Behjat MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Parliament of Western Australia
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837

Attn: Mr Grant Hitchcock
Advisory Officer

Dear Ms Behjat

I refer to the email dated 11 March 2015, from Mr Grant Hitchcock, providing me with the Public Administration Committee's report into recreational hunting systems in Western Australia.

The Western Australian Government has considered the committee's majority recommendation. Please find its enclosed response to this recommendation.

Yours sincerely

Albert Jacob MLA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT; HERITAGE

Att

22 MAY 2015

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
REPORT INTO RECREATIONAL HUNTING SYSTEMS – REPORT NO. 23 (2015)**

Recommendation	Government response
<p><i>Majority recommendation</i> The Committee recommends that the Government introduce a two-year trial of recreational hunting on public land in Western Australia. Taking into consideration the following issues that should be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • native title and legislative requirements • carrying out a thorough risk management assessment • measuring the impact on feral animal numbers • measuring the impact on the local economy and tourism in nearby areas • implementing an online booking and GPS tracking system following the New South Wales model. <p>The trial should be located in two separate areas, such as a reclaimed pastoral station in the Mining and Pastoral region and a State forest in the South West land division.</p>	<p>The Government acknowledges the work undertaken by the committee and the reports it has produced.</p> <p>However, the Government has resolved to not conduct a recreational hunting trial as recommended by the committee. The trial is not supported for reasons including the safety of the community, the doubtful effectiveness in control of feral animals, animal welfare issues and the significant resources required to establish and administer such a trial. Measuring the impact of the proposed trial on feral animal numbers over two years is unlikely to provide insight into any long-term impacts.</p> <p>Targeted, well-coordinated and managed pest animal control programs provide known environmental benefits. The opportunity already exists in Western Australia for recreational hunting groups to support targeted pest animal control programs, through partnerships with government agencies to provide long-term management of pest animals. The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia engage with such groups as part of managed pest animal control programs.</p> <p>The Government acknowledges the contribution of recreational hunting groups, such as the West Australian Field and Game Association and the Sporting Shooters Association Australian (Western Australia), that assist with managed pest animal control programs. The Government, through the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, will continue to work to provide a more consistent approach to engagement and coordination of the involvement of recreational hunting groups as part of expanded, targeted and managed pest animal control programs. Such groups have the appropriate frameworks and codes in place that ensure their members have knowledge of their obligations and can participate appropriately, effectively, safely and in accordance with animal welfare guidelines.</p> <p>The Government acknowledges that enhanced oversight of illegal hunting in some areas of the State is required. As such, relevant agencies will seek to work with land managers and Western Australia Police to better manage illegal hunting and compliance with the <i>Firearms Act 1973</i> and accompanying Regulations.</p>