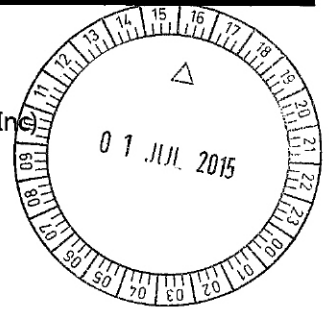


Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)

From: Jamie Chester
Sent: Wednesday, 1 July 2015 4:05 PM
To: Select Committee into the Operations of the RSPCA WA (Inc)
Subject: Submission for RSPCA enquiry



Dear Committee Members,

The recent paid ads taken out by the RSPCA demonstrating their opposition to recreational hunting of feral animals in national parks make it abundantly clear to me that the RSPCA has begun to embrace an extreme philosophical position that actually compromises the stated aims of the Society.

We currently as a whole embrace the paradigm that feral and introduced species of animals need to be controlled in order to protect our own unique biodiversity and recreational hunting offers one of the most humane and cost effective ways of helping to facilitate this end. The alternative of using poisons like 1080 to control foxes and cats, for example, is quite abhorrent in comparison to shooting and such poisons lead to a slow and painful death of the targeted animals.

But instead of taking a positive or even neutral stance on this issue elements within the RSPCA have let their philosophical objections to hunting take precedence which is both outside of their sphere of operations to do so and, even more worryingly, compromises the actual aims of the Society which is to reduce to amount of suffering to animals. And the money spent on this advertising campaign could be better spent achieving pragmatic outcomes rather than being used for pushing extreme ideologies.

This particular example underlines a broader trend within the Society to take an extreme and impractical stance on many animal welfare issues in recent times and is unacceptable in my view for an organisation that receives government funding. The RSPCA is responsible for doing good work but some of the extreme elements need to be kept in check so that the organisation can move forward and continue this work into the future.

Jamie Chester