

Public Administration Committee

From: andrew fairclough
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 1:22 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: WA Recreational Hunting Environmental Contribution Submission

25th March 2014
Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council Parliament House
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837

To whom it may concern,

My name is Andrew Fairclough and I am writing to submit my interest in the current inquiry about the environmental contribution of recreational hunting in Western Australia.

I am an avid rifle hunter, bow hunter and conservationist, I grew up on a farm in the wheat belt and have seen firsthand the impact that feral animals can have on the environment.

I believe allowing recreational hunting on public land would have a lot of benefits to the environment. I will briefly state a few benefits that introducing recreational hunting could have for WA.

Introducing recreational hunting will lower the number of feral animals that are currently negatively impacting the environment. From cats, wild dogs/dingos and foxes effecting native reptiles, birds and mammals, to pigs, deer and goats destroying native flora habitats.

Recreational hunting will also reduce the costs to the government by reducing the need to pay professionals to carry out trapping, hunting and baiting throughout WA's public land. It could also create income for the government by introducing a renewable license system where people will pay a fee each year to obtain the permission to hunt on public land creating a continuous income to the WA government. This could also be used to keep track of the number of people that are hunting the public land and regions more specifically aiding in research into feral animal distribution and impact.

Families could take their children to a safe environment and teach them how to use firearms and archery equipment correctly and safely. It is also a good opportunity to teach others the basic survival skills in a natural environment.

I believe if recreational hunting is introduced into WA there should be a means of competency testing and fauna identification testing to ensure that hunting is carried out in a safe manner. I believe it is important that everyone that is involved in recreational hunting should know and follow hunting ethics and know the difference between native and feral animals. I would encourage a minimum gear requirement into the public land like a GPS with boundaries marked and one piece of blaze orange clothing to be worn or something similar.

I would like to add that I believe it is important to consider all types of hunting to be allowed in particular bow hunting. There is quite a large bow hunting community present in WA and the impact that bow hunters could have on the environment is higher than most people would think, modern bows are extremely accurate, humane and safe.

It makes me extremely happy that recreational hunting could be introduced in WA. Hunting is a very big part of my life and I would like to pass on my knowledge and experience to my children in a safe environment.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Fairclough