

Public Administration Committee

From:
Sent: Saturday, 8 March 2014 5:55 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Submission into recreational hunting systems on public lands.
Attachments: Alfred Frater.vcf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

The Hon. Liz Behjat MLC
Chairman,
standing Committee on Public Administration
"Inquiry into the Potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems".

I acknowledge the terms of reference and would add;

- that WA has the 'toughest' firearm laws in Australia so i will refer to firearm owners , shooters as that, licenced.
- That as one we be allowed to hunt pest animals on public lands as this would be of considerable benefit to the native animals and plants with the removal of pest animals. I have opened foxes that i have shot to ascertain their last meals and found the many feathers of tiny robin like birds as well as field rodents such as mice and of course the inevitable rabbits. Public lands adjacent to private farms provide sanctuary for foxes and the damage they do in lambing time or to poultry is well known.
- It is almost a clear ditto with feral dogs except their food needs dont bother with small birds but sheep or calves and they present a real danger to humans as well as unlike foxes they will hunt in very organised packs.
- Pigs do an amazing damage to pastures in a very short time and like the above will predate on sheep.

There are immediate financial benefits' to using shooters like myself as we carry our own costs*. An employed govt shooter incurs the obvious salary vehicles and accommodation costs not to mention his firearms and ammunition Im sure you understand this. There are 'local' benefits' to communities when shooters go into a park they will use the local shops, fuel agencies perhaps accommodation's etc.

There are 'cultural' benefits' as well many particularly younger men both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal are disenfranchised from the hunting tradition in our society today and allowing public lands hunting would give them a useful out and a legal accepted way to serve the land and give protection to our unique native species. The camaraderie of camping out is a good thing to experience and to share.

The "Hunting & Conservation Club" based in Bunbury that I support has proper training programs and safety is key in passing any course. There are many more such clubs in WA.

- I hold that anyone setting out to hunt in public lands should have been a member of proper club and passed its membership rules. This would alleviate most concerns of *urban public* that the parks were going to be over run with gun wielding and irresponsible nutters.
- I understand the experience in NSW has meant thousands of animals removed and no injuries, no member of the public terrorised and the initial system used there appears to be a good one.
- I would ask that any system employed in WA would receive some sound publicity from the Govt to ward off the inevitable media/greens hysteria that would appear as it did in NSW. The proof there was *in the eating*.

I am very pleased to to see the Hon. Rick Mazza is to be part of the committee.

A bit about myself.

I have held a firearm licence since I was 16 even before i obtained a drivers licence as you could do in those days. I have no criminal convictions record. (This would the same for any shooter I know we are a level bunch and have too much to lose to do anything stupid.)

I am 64 married for many years we have a family all of whom live quiet ordinary useful lives. I am a twice qualified tradesman thus a practical person and i know the value of a dollar never having been on big wages*. I am looking forward to retiring soon from my job as a support worker at the Albany Hospital.

I have not put such a submission before i trust this is in order.

sincerely

Alfred R Frater, Sheet Metal Worker, Welder III, Dip Comm Serv (Aged Care)

Public Administration Committee

From:
Sent: Saturday, 8 March 2014 6:33 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: addendum to my email of the 8-3-2014
Attachments: Alfred Frater.vcf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please add my contact details being,
Alfred R Frater

Thankyou, (long day)
Alfred R Frater
Albany
8-3-2014