

## Public Administration Committee

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**From:** Samuel Beeton  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 March 2014 6:31 PM  
**To:** Public Administration Committee  
**Subject:** Recreational hunting in WA

Dear Ms Mesiti,

I write to you as a staunch supporter of recreational hunting in W.A.

I am a licensed firearm owner, who partakes in culling shoots of feral species on private properties in WA, for the expressed purpose of conservation of our native flora and fauna, along with limiting the impact of feral species on farm stocks.

This is an issue of which I'm sure you're well aware (the issue being the massive impact of feral animals in this state).

As a recreational shooter, who is subject to WA's current laws regarding hunting being legal only on private property, I can state wholeheartedly how frustrating this situation is, when it is blatantly obvious how serious our feral species problem is, and yet, as willing hunters, we are legally bound to stand by and watch this destruction take place, due entirely to our states highly restrictive laws (that are years behind many states on the east-coast)

The facts are, that allowing recreational shooters to hunt on public land yields a positive outcome, both for the community, and for the environment.

(Reference- <http://www.sportingshootermag.com.au/news/1-25-million-ferals-game-council-s-success-tallied>).

Legal firearm owners are deemed fit and worthy to own and operate a firearm, and the majority (I daresay, it is considered a requirement) are members of the SSAA (Sporting shooters association of Australia)

Membership of this association is bound by, among others, the strict requirement to follow the "Hunters Code", which stipulates:

- Strict, safe weapon handling
- Stringent adherence to laws and regulations
- Respectful hunting practices
- Ethical shooting of target species.

Not one shooter in W.A wants, or expects a "free-for-all" situation (as is being portrayed by many anti-hunting groups) in fact, shooters, as a community would embrace the opportunity to be included in the process to develop safe, sustainable and community oriented hunting practices in WA, just as the other states around Australia have been enjoying for years.

This issue isn't about animal cruelty, or gun-toting maniacs, as many opposed groups would have you believe, quite the contrary, it is about allowing a large group of responsible (as deemed by the law), welfare oriented & environmentally concerned individuals, to undertake their chosen recreation, in a way that benefits both the community and the state's environmental health.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider my submission,

Regards,  
Sam Beeton

Sincerely,