

**ROBERT DANIEL**



24th March 2014

To Whom it may Concern,

I believe that public land should be opened to recreational hunting not to avail additional land to hunters but to allow the hunters to humanely control introduced and feral species such as foxes, pigs, goats, wild dogs, cats, donkeys, camels, horses and rabbits (which will be referred to as Feral animals). These feral animals have adapted and excelled in our native bushes to the detriment of our Australian Native animals, and as they are in the safety of public land are not able to be controlled.

The damage that is being caused by these feral animals in our bushlands is staggering, and the effects of this on our native flora and fauna is incomprehensible. Not to mention the amount of native and endangered species of birds, reptiles and small animals that is being killed by these feral animals. It seems to be a matter of what we don't see happening before our eyes won't hurt us. But will it be acceptable in the future for our children to only see these small animals in a zoo ?

The benefits of being able to hunt on public land to control these feral animals spread to the livelihood of our regional farmers. The expense that these feral animals cause to our farmers is an unnecessary cost to which I can guarantee our farmers would love to be putting those funds elsewhere. I know you may be questioning the validation of this point but when you think of the cost of replacing fences, water and feed for stock, loss of pastures, diseases that the feral animals bring to the stock, and even the stock themselves being killed by the feral animals, all these things add up to an expense that our farmers just should not be paying. The benefits for our farmers alone should be reason enough.

The financial support that it will bring into our smaller towns by way of hunters through camping trips, will only further benefit various small communities. On hunting trips the hunters require fuel, food and accommodation which will greatly assist the small business owners and growth of the local communities and economy.

Yes I am a hunter, however I also am proud to be supporting my country's native animals by way of getting rid of some of the feral animals that they are competing with for food and eradicating those that hunt them. '

Hunting has been a part of my life since I was a little boy and I have been able to see firsthand how fast these feral animals are breeding and spreading through our lands. My father taught me how to hunt and shoot and I am honoured that I am able to do the same with my son. I can only hope that in the next generations to come that my son will still have the same freedoms and opportunities to do the same with his children.

Using hunters will be a cost effective way for the government to control the feral animal population in Australia. With all this said I am quite surprised that this idea was not considered sooner, however I applaud the government for the forward thinking to save our native flora and fauna.

I look forward to hearing that this environmentally sound solution has been approved.

Yours sincerely

*(emailed, downloaded and delivered by hand)*

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**Robert Daniel**