



Inquiry into recreational hunting systems in Western Australia submission.

To Whom It May Concern, I would like talk about the introduced public land hunting motion by Rick Mazza of the shooters and fishers party.

Firstly my name is Rhys, I'm currently studying internet communications at Curtin University and am 19 years old.

I wanted to write to you to express my opinion and values about the proposed legislation. In my opinion there is no reason why WA cannot have public land hunting and I cannot express enough how much Australia needs to look at New Zealand's take on hunting and firearms law in general. We are law abiding citizens and are not dangerous to the community yet we are treated like criminals. I am a keen shooter myself and have always had a strong passion and interest in firearms. As soon as I turned 18 I started my licencing process to get my first rifle, a .22 rim fire. Since then I have 3 more rifles and take part in pest eradication for farmers in the Wandering/Narrogin area. I love helping the farmers and I know I'm doing a good thing for their income as less lambs will be taken by ferals and also I'm doing a good thing for the native animals by reducing the number of local ferals.

If I had the option to be a licenced public land hunter I would take it up in a split second and not expect to be paid, the commercial cost to eradicate pests that the government pays contractors is absolutely ridiculous and we need to look into cost effective ways to manage our feral animal problem. Allowing licenced hunters onto approved public land like in NSW for instance would be a big leap forward for the firearms community and also the environment and species sustainability. Not only are the law abiding hunters willing to do it all for free it gives them a place to enjoy what they love. For me all I want to do when I have time is to go to the country and shoot, its relaxing and it's just what I love. Unfortunately at the moment it's not always that easy because I'm bound by properties and always need permission to shoot and am often confined my grandparent's farm that is only 50 acres and I can only target shoot with my .22 because of the property size and location. I would love to be able to utilize free crown land and spend a weekend camping and shooting while enjoying the Australian outback. Western Australia has so much space for such activities but unfortunately its all locked up and backed by fines and penalties.

I understand the concerns for public safety when there could be multiple hunters in one area but these accidents are so rare you would be more likely to fall off the back of your boat and be injured. What Rick Mazza has proposed needs to be introduced in WA it will give law abiding shooters a place to enjoy their past time and it will also benefit the native species and keep the feral numbers down resulting in less government spending on baiting programs and commercial eradication.

Kind Regards, Rhys Ryan.