

Public Administration Committee

From:
Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2014 10:06 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Submission - recreational hunting on public land

Mrs Mesiti

I am writing to you to inform you of the benefits, as I see them, of recreational hunting on appropriate areas of public land in Western Australia.

I am a farmer's wife and we regularly give permission to people to hunt on the land that we manage. This permission is only granted to people who can demonstrate proficiency in the safe use of firearms. I believe this should be an important aspect when allowing hunters onto public (or any!) land, as this will ensure that the fears of the non-hunting public are allayed, as well as the safety of all land-users. I have used firearms all my adult life, am an active target shooter and hunter for food and feral species. I have hunted various feral animals in Western Australia, including foxes, cats, wild dogs, rabbits and camels, as well as having hunted in South Africa. As a mother I see the benefits in exposing our young kids to hunting (feral animals as well as for food) from a young age and as often as possible. This is a very healthy and educational pastime. It is my opinion that well trained and appropriately experienced hunters are of the most responsible people in our community, and allowing access to public land will ensure that such people can continue their healthy outdoor pursuits as well as allow them the opportunity, and land on which to pass on this worthwhile culture to the younger generation. It is important to teach the children the importance of conservation through hunting.

Controlled, safe recreational hunting as practiced successfully in other states, provides to feral animal control at no cost to the taxpayer, and will contribute significantly to local economies in the form of revenue from travel, accommodation, firearms, ammunition and reloading supplies. Lawful recreational hunting will also (again, at no cost to the state) cover vastly greater areas than is currently the case and have a significant impact on feral species, leading to even more economic and environmental benefits in the form of reduced stock losses (farming profitability) and reduced competition and predation of our native animals.

Yours faithfully

Erlanda Deas