

Public Administration Committee

From: John Blair
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 1:50 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems.

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Committee Clerk
Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council
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I agree with allowing hunting on public lands for many reasons:

I and many other Western Australians currently hunt in other states and territories controlled public lands and pastoral/ farming areas and feel if a licencing system were to come into Western Australia the income would better benefit our own state.(Victoria estimates 98 million dollars per annum on hunting from approximately 45000 licences. Western Australia has approximately 82000 licenced firearm owners).

Not all pest species live on pastoral leases in Western Australia they extend well into the states lands. Camels being a good example of this, with the increase in numbers over the years it has cost the state millions of tax payer dollars in culling crews to reduce numbers or eradicate fully. (the use of hunters can keep numbers more controlled while pushing money into the state).

South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria have had public land hunting for years in different forms without any endangerment to public safety. If these states can trust in their citizens to hunt controlled public lands then why shouldn't we.

I was introduced to firearms in 1980 and have been involved with them ever since without any incidences, I am a member of firearm based sporting groups and find that the standards they require of their members to be very high. I believe owning a firearm is a big responsibility and have always done the right thing to ensure the future of firearms sport and hunting in this state and country as a whole continues for future enthusiasts.

John Blair.