

Public Administration Committee

From: Peter Kenrick <
Sent: Thursday, 29 May 2014 8:07 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Late submission
Attachments: Submission Peter Kenrick May 2014.doc

Hello the Committee

I put in a submission earlier, however it is not showing up on your list of submissions. I am resending it, in the hope it is not too late to be of use.

Peter Kenrick

Public Administration Committee

From: Peter Kenrick
Sent: Friday, 30 May 2014 1:24 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: FW: Late Submission
Attachments: Submission Peter Kenrick May 2014.doc

From: Peter Kenrick |
Sent: Tuesday, 13 May 2014 5:46 AM
To: 'Minister.Harvey@dpc.wa.gov.au'
Subject: Late Submission

Good Morning Minister

As per our conversation on Friday the 9th of May, this year, I have put together a late submission for the Firearms Act Review. Please find attached.

Regards
Peter Kenrick

Submission to the Western Australian Firearms Act Review Committee

To the members of the committee

As a private citizen, I would like to draw your attention to the following;

Firstly a bit of background. I have been shooting since I was eleven. My first experience was helping cull goats in the Gascoyne Junction. Followed by formal training in the use of firearms, while in army cadets. Once married I had a break from shooting, concentrating on providing a living for my family. Once the children had grown somewhat, in 1996/97 I took up shooting again. Since then I have legally culled every feral animal in Western Australia, other than deer. I'm a practical conservationist, I can't help in breeding programs as I don't have the necessary qualifications, however every feral animal I take out is either a predator not depleting our wildlife, a herbivore not competing for vegetable resources, another tree saved from ring barking or a watercourse not destroyed by rooting for tubers.

In my experience, the explosion of feral animals in this state has been nothing short of appalling. Allow me to give a number of examples.

1. Having frequently taken an early morning walk along the coastal path/cycle way from Hillarys northwards, I have been astounded by the number of rabbits living in the dunes and bushland. This area cannot be practically cleared by poisoning, as the number of people that walk their dogs. Closing the walkway from three to five in the morning to allow small groups (2 -5 persons) of carefully selected shooters with silenced .22s would go a long way to reducing their numbers. An additional benefit would be the reduction in the numbers of foxes, taken as they fossick along the beaches.
2. Any farmer who lives near a reserve, state forest or national park, can and will tell you that shooting the foxes, feral dogs, donkeys etc off their property is not enough. Nature abhors a vacuum, as soon as you clear one area of vertebrate pests, the seed population within the surrounding areas will expand into the cleared area. No farmer or pastoralist I know, has the time, energy or finances to go culling every week. The Red Card for Foxes and the Farmer Assist programs are a great start, but cannot go far enough.
3. I have been shooting feral pigs on a friend's cattle farm out of GinGin for the last eight years, however until my wife dragged me along on one of her Bibbulmun track hikes I hadn't realised how many feral pigs are living in the southwest. Our sightings have been more than a few and the amount of scat has convinced me that we are only seeing a fraction of the animals. Most of you would know of the Nanga Mills camp site in Dwellingup. While camped there, my wife and I took a walk along the east side of the river. We spotted a large sow and a young boar only 300 meters from the busy campsite. If these animals come into the campsite, following the smells of food, I would not like to be in their way.
4. I have worked in the Central Lands Council Lands as a travelling teacher in the last ten years. During my time there I have observed the damage done by feral camels; ringbarked desert oaks, polluted waterholes and the decline of the local kangaroo populations. If you come into the pastoral lease areas you will see the damage done to mill and tank infrastructure and the cattle being

kept from water by camels. The cost is not only in repairs but also in lost condition in the cattle.

5. Baiting of ferals is one method of culling however it is both non-selective, dingos die of strychnine as well as feral dogs, and cruel. If you ever see an animal dying of strychnine poisoning, you will not want to see it again. It has another downside; strychnine stays in the destroyed animal and will kill anything that consumes that animal, crow, raven, eagle or dingo. A well placed shot will kill before the sound reaches the culled animal, instantaneous and painless and highly selective.

I put to you culling feral animals by shooting has its place in Western Australia; the benefit to the land, wildlife, people and economy is immeasurable. I would ask you to consider framing the revised act to allow more sensible ownership laws, of suitable firearms and access to crown land to allow the shooting conservationist to play his/her part in reducing what is a major problem.

Yours truly,

| Peter Kenrick