

## Public Administration Committee

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**From:** Anthony Smith  
**Sent:** Sunday, 23 March 2014 9:19 PM  
**To:** Public Administration Committee  
**Subject:** Negative: No to shooting animals in WA

Dear Ms Mesiti,

I would like to make my views known to the Committee holding an inquiry into allowing recreational shooting in Western Australia.

As a WA resident, I have no objection to shooting feral animals and vermin in WA on public land.

From my experience and in my opinion many WA shooters do not kill animals just for "fun". Many shooters have seen first hand the destruction feral animals and vermin do to native fauna and flora and this is the reason they pursue such endeavors.

The fact that WA has the strictest gun licensing application in Australia, to me I think that people who go through this process of applying for a gun license have thought about the consequences and the privilege of owning a firearm and realize it is a responsibility not to be taken lightly.

I also believe that WA public lands should be opened to all shooters. The cost to the community of eradicating vermin and feral animals by the government could be reduced by allowing shooters to cull these animals. In fact the government could charge shooters for the "privilege".

There are laws in other countries that control how, when and with what weapon animals can be killed. By talking with shooters and shooting associations I think that similar rules could be introduced to stop "cowboys" and recklessly hunters from hunting inhumanely.

Most of the Western Australians that enjoy the outdoors appreciate that if hunting was allowed on public land they would need to ensure it was done appropriately and responsibly otherwise this privilege maybe taken away and we will not be able to pass this privilege down to our children.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Anthony Smith