

Public Administration Committee

From: David Briggs
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 9:57 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Attention Lauren 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 strongly support recreational hunting of introduced species.

I am not opposed to it because "killing animals for fun" does not reflect the values of "recreational shooters" in general.

Opening up WA State Forests to recreational shooting will lead to sustainable, native animal survival and proliferation. It is not feasible to effectively police every amateur shooter, and therefore there is a need to enforce mandatory training via professional agencies, and mandatory licensing for responsible hunters via a regulated system, which has already been proposed. This will guarantee that animals will not suffer prolonged deaths, or be left behind injured. The Public, wildlife and other animals will also be put at lower risk of injury and death by this plan.

I also believe that WA public lands should be kept safe for all members of the community. Shooting can only endanger public safety when conducted by untrained, irresponsible and unauthorised practitioners, and because of the difficulty in policing shooting practices and enforcing laws in remote areas, appropriate scrutiny and diligence to this authority should apply when screening applicants.

Finally, I fully support recreational shooting as a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. if it's not backed up as an effective approach by scientific evidence, has baiting, trapping and poisoning provided the desired results? Most importantly, there are no other, more humane and effective solutions available to address this issue. Baiting, trapping and poisoning require great expense and unnecessary suffering. If population management of introduced species is necessary, it should be done respectfully and humanely, by qualified shooters.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature, without ever wanting to shoot animals. Please don't put people and animals unnecessarily at risk for this plan. Drive for responsible hunting by qualified hunters, and also for the sustainability of native fauna, by the reduction of the destructive introduced species, now at a critical state.

Thank you for considering my submission.

David Briggs