

12 March 2014

CHIDLOW MARSUPIAL HOSPITAL INC



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Lauren Mesiti  
Committee Clerk,  
Standing Committee on Public Administration,  
Legislative Council,  
Parliament House,  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Lauren

**Submission on Recreational Hunting in WA**

Members of the Chidlow Marsupial Hospital Inc. wish to register their strong opposition to any proposal to introduce recreational hunting into Western Australia.

The Chidlow Marsupial Hospital cares for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and has been in existence for over 20 years. During that time, many joeys have been brought to the Hospital that we know or strongly suspect have been orphaned as a result of illegal kangaroo hunting.

Although we are not in a position to know the full extent of illegal hunting in WA, we strongly believe that this problem will only get worse if recreational hunting is introduced. Any regulations designed to protect wildlife from recreational hunters we believe would be ineffective and impossible to enforce.

The Chidlow Marsupial Hospital supports the culling of feral animals such as foxes and feral cats, however we do not believe that this should be left to recreational hunters. Any culling program should be carried out professionally by the Department of Parks and Wildlife to ensure the program is effective and that the feral animals are killed as quickly and humanely as possible.

Many people enjoy the bush and its wildlife, and activities that promote conservation and respect for our wildlife should be encouraged. Recreational hunting does not meet this criteria and is incompatible with other nature based activities.

Our wildlife face many challenges, including loss of habitat, feral animals, professional shooters and climate change. We should not be adding recreational hunters to this list. The Chidlow Marsupial Hospital Inc. therefore implores the committee to oppose the introduction of recreational hunting into Western Australia.

Yours faithfully

Liz Appelt  
President