

Public Administration Committee

From: Dave Keating
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2014 7:47 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Submission - Public Administration - Recreational Hunting

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Dear Sir/Ma'am

Please forgive my ignorance as I have never made a submission before, I will however endeavour to address the points outlined by the committee.

a) Pest animals, recreational and cultural benefits of hunting on public lands - Perhaps I should start with a short introduction as I may not fit the public perception of your typical hunter and why I hunt recreationally as well as to assist my farming friends in pest control.

I am a Christian 42 year old man married with one child, white collar professional, non drinking, vegetarian which may seem at odds with the perception of the typical shooter. I mention this to hopefully set aside any inaccurate preconceptions of what is or is not your typical recreational hunter.

Personally I hunt for multiple reasons from a recreational perspective I enjoy the outdoors and being able to spend time with my son target shooting and taking small game that is used for pet food as well as assist my farming friends in controlling pests which do not respect boundaries of public land. Anyone who has spent anytime in the bush will not need to be shown the damage that feral cats, goats, pigs and rabbits cause to the land and animals. Feral cats are particularly vicious when targeting their prey.

As I typically hunt smaller animals I often walk through acres of land that is heavily damaged by burrowing rabbits or foxes.

Even in my suburban hills property I see the harm that cats cause the native possums and bandicoots on my property, never mind when you go bush where the damage can be extreme.

Personally I see no reason why responsible hunters cannot hunt on public land as they successfully do in other states I have yet to see a properly registered hunter who shoots anything that moves but rather most hunters have set game that they are targeting and humane disposal is a very high priority to most hunters that I have hunted with, it certainly is with me as I have no desire to see suffering.

The fact is hunting carried out in a responsible manner is a very enjoyable past time and is not an irrational blood sport, I feel it would be highly hypocritical of anyone who eats and enjoys eating meat to have a problem with hunting per se never mind the culling of feral animals as opposed to the industrial slaughter and blood shed of animals by the thousand for cheap fast food which occurs daily and is on a scale that trivialises any recreational hunting kills. Fact is we do not need to eat Livestock yet we do.

The reality is people kill and control animals everyday and there is a cost to the public that can be subsidised by recreational hunters I have seen poisoning of foxes cause a cruel death not only to the foxes but also pets.

This state is very large millions of acres of land and I would be the last person who would want to see the Wild West every time I visited a national park, however recreational licensed and managed hunting in designated areas so many kilometres (to be decided) from built up or high use public land e.g. Glen Forrest National Park would not affect anyone yet would encourage people into these isolated areas to hunt.

People have hunted as far back as history goes and I am a strong believer that all citizens have a right to use and share this extremely vast land, our country, for their use in perusing a happy and satisfying life in contact with nature and to not inflict their beliefs onto others but to share all that is unashamedly ours.

I hope I have managed to share my perspective in line with what is expected for a submission.

Kind Regards

Dave Keating