



Submission

Inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems

First of all I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to put in a submission in for recreational hunting on public land.

I have been a WA resident all my life and have been involved with multiple activities in the outdoors and believe the more people are encouraged to recreate outdoors the more this benefits society in general.

Cultural Benefits

- As a father it worries me to see the ever growing anti social behaviour that is occurring with the younger generation and encouraging our youth to pursue good wholesome activities outdoors it a good way to teach them respect for others, the environment and most importantly themselves and gives them a sense of pride and worth to be able to provide for themselves.
- Many hunters hunt for the satisfaction of providing for themselves and families and there is a great sense of pride that comes with it to be able to do so.

Economic Benefits

- By allowing hunters to access public lands can greatly boost the local economies of rural towns as hunters will often purchase goods such as fuel, groceries and accommodation.
- The Victorian Government has just announced that hunting on public land is worth an estimated \$100m per year, which is not only from local hunters but due to the visiting hunters from interstate and overseas.
- I believe WA and in particular our rural communities are currently missing out on much needed tourism dollars, especially as the rural areas are under immense strain from weather and market related issues.
- By setting up a "game council" the hunting system can be self sufficient and even generate money to put towards other forms of animal control.
- We have a substantial hunting community in WA who is willing to help and bear the costs associated which in turn will alleviate the costs of hiring shooters to carry out culling operations.
- Unlike 1080, hunting is the most selective form of culling as it is only the targeted species that is affected without the chance of affecting native species.

Environmental Benefits

- Hunting is the most effective way to target invasive species and has a 0% chance of other species being affected
- Hunters will often take out other feral species whilst hunting, A good example of this is whilst hunting, It is quite common to come across foxes, cats and dogs whilst targeting other feral species and despatch them.
- Dieback is unfortunately an issue in WA and as such certain areas need to have less traffic to ensure the risk of spreading is minimal. Hunting for feral species such as pigs in these areas may outweigh the risk given that the destructive nature and home range of pigs have more affect on spreading dieback than any hunter could.

Safety

- There is great concern to many about the safety of other users on public lands, but the examples that have already been set in NSW and Victoria show that if a system is designed properly there is a very low chance of other users been affected.
- Hunters by nature do not want to be in areas of high traffic and prefer to hunt in more remote areas where the game will be more settled so the chances for interactions with other users can be minimised by allowing hunters into less visited areas.

Game Management

- The promotion of game species such as Red, Fallow and Rusa deer can help to put WA on the map for many keen hunters from Australia wide and overseas to visit our great state and help to boost tourism.

I recommend looking into the Victorian model to see a system that has affectively worked for decades.

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing-and-hunting/game-hunting>

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission and if there are any follow up question please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Daniel Strijk.