

Public Administration Committee

From: Aiden Ruwoldt
Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2014 6:30 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry into the Potential Environmental Contribution of Recreational Hunting Systems

Dear Committee Members,

My Name is Aiden Ruwoldt, and I have been a sporting shooter since the age of 7. I am 20 this year, and although still young in the sport, I have been shooting for nearly 13 years.

I am writing this email to you to highlight that I am in total favour of Recreational Hunting on public Land.

Growing up in a healthy and safe Firearm Culture has taught me a lot about safety and respect of both people, and tools of recreation. Today, I work as an Apprentice in a High Risk Workshop and it is of utmost importance that my workmates and I work in a safe and efficient manner to ensure the job gets done.

The same applies to Recreational Hunting. It is a safe, economical, strict and sociable practice that I believe should be widely used to control feral and overpopulated species.

Introduced Species, combined with overpopulated native species, are a problem for farmers, stations and large properties all around Australia. With an open firearms license allowing us to shoot only on some larger properties there is only limited control of these species. This is not enough. Properties only make up a small portion of the total landmass that is Australia.

If there is one thing I've learnt about gun culture, it is that the general public lack any understanding of guns or gun culture. I have grown up and been frowned upon by my peers, ridiculed by my teachers and slandered by the people around me because of how "BAD" guns are and how much I am some "Crazed Redneck" for wanting to be a part of it. This is the case for the majority of shooters, hunters and gun-owning Law-Abiding Citizens.

It's about time the public saw the good that a healthy firearm culture and Recreational Hunting system can achieve for both the sport and for the environment. I would like to see this happen in my lifetime, preferably sooner rather than later.

I appreciate the Committee taking the time to read not only my email, but all other emails and letters related to this topic. I hope that this Inquiry brings on a positive change to the current systems.

Kindest Regards,

Aiden Ruwoldt