

## Public Administration Committee

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**From:** Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, 21 March 2014 6:17 PM  
**To:** Public Administration Committee  
**Subject:** Public land hunting

To Ms Lauren Mestiti,

I am submitting this to not only to explain the benefits but to also dispel the myths that go around in regards to hunting. I currently live in New South Wales and have seen what the benefits of hunting are and have seen the lies that come from those that oppose this policy. The first is that recreational hunters release animals to be hunted. This is false, no recreational hunter has been convicted of this crime and those who have turn out not to have hunting licenses.

One other myth is that hunters allow some species to thrive otherwise they wouldn't have any thing to shoot which contradicts the other claim that hunters are trigger happy rednecks that blast away at anything that moves. The reality is that its much more complicated than that, when someone is out hunting they first scout to track their prey, then get in close to line up the shot then checks the area to see where the trajectory of his bullet may land. When his line of sight is clear he then aims to take the animal down in the most humane fashion. The hunter would then repeat the same procedure again for each of his kill. this is contrary to other myths like 'hunters are bloodthirsty thrill-killers'

A third myth is that hunting doesn't work. This is simply not true, there are many examples of this working and plenty of evidence to support that hunting can help control pest animals. Examples operation bounceback in South Australia, the seven to eight years of public land hunting in New South Wales state forests, the fox bounty in Victoria which was deemed a success and the deer hunting in Victoria and removed . Contrary to popular belief the deer numbers increasing was not due to hunters allowing deer to remain so that there would be more to hunt in the future but due to failed deer farms where deer farmers would cut their fences and let their deer go free because they had goon out of business.

The final myth I wish to dispel is that it endangers the lives of bushwalkers. There isn't strong evidence to support this. the show that deaths by firearms are in the minority and most are other hunters rather than bushwalkers and other outdoor enthusiasts. The reason for this is that hunters do not hunt where bushwalkers are.

I hope I've been brief in my correspondence and have supplied some relevant data for you to review.

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/365353/Effective-fox-control-programs.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/365353/Effective-fox-control-programs.pdf)

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