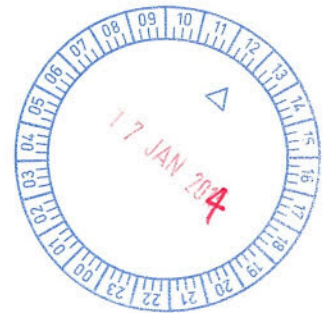


PUBLIC

upon tabling of Committee's Report

19/2/14



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

Re : Inquiry into Recreational Hunting Systems – Public Lands

Dear Chairperson,

I wish to lodge the following submission in favour of the proposal, put by the Hon. Rick Mazza.

The proposal is a good one and the Legislative mechanisms & the “ Permit Books “ are already in place. We are not talking about re-inventing the wheel. Back in the 1970’s & 1980’s, it was common place for permits to be issued by the then, Forestry Dept, to hunt feral pigs in State Forests here in WA..... I personally obtained many such permits to hunt in the State Forests around Dwellingup, as did several of my friends. From memory, this system was “ suspended “ back in the late 1980’s by the Department concerned, just as a matter of **Policy Change!** I am not sure of the reasons why, but suspect it was something to do with Dieback in the Jarrah Forests & **Public Liability Concerns.** I know that the “ System “ & the Permit books still exist, as I personally obtained one a few years back, for a slightly different purpose, but none the less, discharging a Firearm in State Forest. I also know of several selected pig hunters who have been given such permits in recent years.

Hunting in Public Lands, State Forests & National Parks has existed in Victoria forever, as it has in New Zealand, Tasmania and the Northern Territory and for a few years now in NSW.

The Cultural, recreational and **Economic** benefits to the Community, Government and Taxpayer, of such a system are enormous. Whether the “ Anti’s “ like it or not, hunting is a part of the natural instinct of the human race and has been since Adam was a lad..... it is just a “ Natural “ thing to do. It is also a great recreational activity that gets people out into the bush. Plenty of exercise and fresh air, instead of sitting in front of the TV or computer!

Economic Benefits : At the moment, it costs the Government millions of taxpayer’s dollars to control feral animals on Public Lands, as Recreational Hunters are currently “ locked out “. It is either paid Government employees or paid private companies that control these feral animals! The Recreational Hunter would perform this service free of charge. All that would be required, is a couple of dedicated staff from the current Department to co-ordinate these hunting and culling activities.

Benefits to Local Communities : As is the case in New Zealand and the other States in Australia, where this is allowed, these Recreational Hunters bring with them lots of dollars into the towns and their businesses, such as buying food, fuel, camping supplies and patronizing local accommodation and restaurants..... I will give you a prime example. In 1999, Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Inc, finally won a long hard battle to establish a target shooting complex about 7 kms out of the town site. There were a handful of local residents who were opposed to it..... now they love us!

