

From: Wanoscg WAOrchids
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2014 1:41
To: Behjat, Liz
Subject: Re: Bibbulmun Track recreational shooting inquiry

26th March 2014

Mr J.H. Steer

Hon. Elizabeth (Liz) Lloyd Behjat, MLC

Re: Bibbulmun Track recreational shooting inquiry

Following recent publicity about the prospect of “recreational shooters” being involved in the culling of feral animals in the SW of the state and in particular along the Bibbulmun track, our group, the Western Australian Native Orchid Study and Conservation Group (Inc.), would like to make the following points.

Members of our group are often involved in survey work for native terrestrial orchids in the SW of the state and along the Bibbulmun track. Our club members do this both in a private capacity and in association with DPaW as part of the Adopt an orchid program in a conservation effort to monitor rare and endangered (Priority) orchid species.

Unlike normal bush walkers who are reasonably visible, orchid enthusiasts may well be squatting down on the ground, rustling around bushes and inspecting and photographing orchids as part of their surveying duties. Our members, in the course of their surveys often enter tracks at non designated points and therefore be at risk of not seeing warning signs at the start and end of tracks. Additionally our members may be required to leave the marked tracks to search in adjacent bushland.

I am sure that you can see where this line of reasoning is leading. Our fear is that we could easily be mistaken for a feral animal by an over-zealous shooter.

Hence we believe that the proposal to enlist the services of “recreational shooters” has real and unacceptable negative implications for orchid, wildflower and birding enthusiasts.

Yours faithfully,