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Attention: Ms Lauren Mesiti

Committee Clerk
Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council, Parliament House
GPO Box A11
PERTH WA 6837



REFERENCE: RECREATIONAL HUNTING SYSTEM

On behalf of the W.A Firearm Traders Association, we submit the following statement regarding the above subject.

Although, as Traders, we are at the retail, maintenance and supply end of the Recreational Hunting system and may be seen as having a "vested interest", but in fact our position acknowledges that we have a wide insight into the area under review.

The build-up or increase of feral animals and introduced species has become a major problem within our farming, agricultural, viniculture lands bordering to land under Government control. This situation is having a devastating effect on our native wildlife.

Large numbers of these feral animals, being pigs, cats, dogs, deer, camels, foxes, and donkeys obtain refuge in unoccupied government land which provides a haven in which they are able to breed and avoid control measures by private land owners but from which they are able to access cultivated or pastoral land.

The cost of feral animals in environmental degradation, risk of infectious disease transmission and directly on agricultural and pastoral activities is well established and very significant.

Poisoning and trapping and professional shooting has been used by the various Government agencies in an attempt to control the problem but the scale of the problem shows that has not been successful.

Recreational hunters can and do make a difference through a confirmed reduction across many of the different feral vermin species. If utilised, this is a resource that has the potential to effectively address the problem at minor public cost.

