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Standing Committee on Public Administration – Inquiry into Recreational Hunting Systems

Submission being made by Zaine Beaton representing the Western Australian small business Beaton Firearms.

Beaton Firearms surveyed approximately 3400 of its clients for their opinions on recreational hunting on public lands. Data garnered from this survey has been used in this submission.

Overview of submission

The introduction of hunting on public lands is a positive step forward for Western Australia. Areas of improvement will include;

1. Controlling of pest animals
2. Economic benefits to those negatively affected by feral animal populations
3. Recreational benefits for Western Australians

These points being covered under the Terms of Reference set down for the inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems.

In addition to these points, there are other positive effects from introducing hunting on public lands;

1. Positive economic benefits to those indirectly associated with primary production, general outdoor activities and hunting.
2. Reduction of illegal hunting on public and privately owned land.
3. Biodiversity – Non-hunted native animal population increase.
4. Increase in ethical destruction methods.

The introduction of hunting on public lands has a lot of positives for almost no negative aspects.

Those who stand to gain from the adoption of this program and would, assumingly, support the program, would be the following:

- Primary Producers – The profitability of their businesses will increase as a result of reduced populations of feral and pest animals.
- Shooters – By allowing the extension of their recreational activity to a larger geographical area.

