

Mesiti, Lauren

From: Peter van Maale
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 8:05 AM
To: Mesiti, Lauren; cottesloe@mp.wa.gov.au
Subject: Recreational Shooting Public Inquiry submissions

I would like to make my views known to the Committee holding an inquiry into allowing recreational shooting in Western Australia.

As a ACT resident, I am strongly support all WA residents to be able to engage in recreational hunting of all currently defined feral animal species. Something we currently don't have here in the ACT, to our detriment.

I support killing of feral species for conversation as this reflects the values of our community in 2014, for the protection of our native animals that are under constant threat from feral species.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting will lead almost no animal suffering unlike the use of poisons like 1080 which can take days to kill an animal and lead to great suffering. 1080 is an indiscriminate targeted poison that also kills native animals and livestock.

It is feasible to effectively police volunteer shooters, as has been shown in Victoria, QLD and New South Wales, with 10 years of hunting on public land and zero incidents as is the case for NSW. Deer hunting also occurs in National Parks in Victoria with no danger to the public.

I also believe that WA public lands should be kept open for use by all members of the community not just a few. Shooting does not endanger public safety, especially because ethical hunters properly identify their target and are aware of what is behind their targets before firing a shot or releasing an arrow. In no way are hunters amateurs. Shooting with a rifle or bow effectively and humanely takes much practice and honing of your hunting skills. I have never met an amateur hunter, only new hunters.

Finally, I support recreational shooting as a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. It's has been backed up as an effective approach by scientific evidence, as the recent fox bounty in Victoria shows with a reduction of 250,000 foxes.

Most importantly, there is a strong cultural tradition of hunting in this country, from the Aboriginal peoples to more recently arrivals. I am an IT Professional by day and a Hunter and I am introducing my children to our cultural heritage of hunting in Australia. It teaches them respect and safety regarding firearms and bows and also importantly respect & love for the animals we hunt and harvest and utilise. And in the process we help protect our native animals and a practical and sensible way.

Population management of introduced species is necessary and volunteer shooters are willing to do it for free.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature, but some due to their misinformed opinions about the nature of hunting want to restrict access and activities only to those people who agree with their political views.

We don't hear about Hunters trying to impinge on the rights of bushwalkers or the other users of Public Land . Please don't give in to misinformed and prejudiced people who can only be classes as extremists who use overly emotive and misleading language.

Thank you for considering my submission.