

Frederick R. Pryor



23rd March 2014

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

re: INQUIRY INTO THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTION OF
RECREATIONAL HUNTING SYSTEMS.

As a retiree and recreational shooter from a farming background I feel that I am representative of many older and responsible shooters who are conversant with the problems and income losses sustained by primary producers as the result of ingress on their properties by vermin and feral animals.

We derive satisfaction both from performing our activities in a professional and efficient manner and knowing that we are assisting property owners in their ongoing vermin control procedures.

I have contact with and permission to shoot on a number of properties and some of these farms border on nature reserves and other public lands which provide a haven (and nursery) for vermin and ferals.

These animals make incursions onto the adjoining properties, usually at night, and inflict damage on crops as well as domestic animals – usually sheep.

When detected, be it day or night, the offenders usually make a beeline for the cover of their habitat at high speed.

It is illegal to shoot on or across public lands even though most of these lands have limited or no ease of access to the general public therefore law abiding shooters are handicapped, in many cases unnecessarily.

I understand that some shooting groups have on occasion been able to arrange approvals with certain government departments to conduct culling activities on some public lands but these approvals are not ongoing, conditions are fairly onerous, and changes of staff in the relative departments make the building up of a positive relationship difficult.

It is my belief that approval, granted under appropriate guidelines and controls, to allow properly licensed shooters access to certain public lands for the purpose of reducing the impact of non native species, as is being undertaken in other States, will benefit both the environment and those who derive their living from the land.

Yours faithfully,

Fred Pryor