

Public Administration Committee

From: sam hackling
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 7:43 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: I support recreational hunting on public WA lands.

To Whom It May Concern,

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

As a WA resident, I am strongly in favour of recreational hunting of any animals, introduced or otherwise, that are declared feral or vermin.

I am in favour of it as these animals impinge adversely on our environment and the well being of our rural community.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting will not lead to unacceptable animal suffering. So called amateur shooters are every bit as capable as professionals and it is a matter of (pride?) that their activities are conducted with skill and efficiency. It is an obligation not to leave targeted animals wounded to suffer prolonged and agonizing deaths, or be left behind injured.

There is a large amount of WA public land that has very limited or no ease of access and is unlikely to be used by the general community for recreational purposes. It should be noted that when the responsible government department engages in poison baiting or shooting activities, appropriate signs are prominently displayed for public information. It must be mentioned here that control by use of poison baits is a cruel method of control which has the potential affect other life, particularly scavenging birds and domestic animals. Shooting does not endanger public safety if there are mandatory controls and procedures in place and public education engaged.

Finally, I support recreational shooting as an adjunct, not a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. It may not be backed up as an effective approach by scientific evidence but is part of the overall package. Maybe there are other effective solutions available to address this issue but what are they? Use of poison baits is not humane! Population management of introduced species is obviously necessary and shooting is one of the control methods that can be used. It is held that shooting should only be done professionally and humanely, not by amateur shooters. In my experience amateur shooters are just as expert as the professionals, sometimes even more so.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature, without ever wanting to shoot animals. This is their prerogative but please don't let the demands of narrow minded idealists reduce our capacity to cope with a problem which is at risk of becoming out of control.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam Hackling