

Public Administration Committee

From: derek hall ·
Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2014 8:36 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Hunting on Public land

Dear Committee Members

I write this email in favour of using selected parcels of Western Australia public land for the use of recreational hunting. From my own personal point of view and they are.

I have been a licensed firearms owner since 1987 and in this time have legally used firearms to control feral animals on various sheep and cattle stations through the Murchison and mid west areas of WA.

The types of introduced species I have destroyed have been Feral Goat, Wild dogs, rabbits, foxes, donkey, feral cats. The contribution I feel I have done for the flora and fauna for the WA bush has been significant, I understand that, I alone cannot solve the problem, but I am contributing to rid these pests from our habitat as are thousands of hunters in WA, be that the Kimberlys or Eucla.

The economic benefits to the landowner have been in reduced stock losses, with wild dog and fox numbers reduced, increasing lamb numbers, which equates into more money for the Station/farm owner. The additional economic rewards are to the Gun shop I purchase all of my ammunition and other associated accessories from needed to eradicate said feral animals. Rifles and accessories are not cheap believe me, and I alone have calculated that since 1987, my expenditure in total spread costs has been close to \$200,000.00.

I am sure you are aware of how successful hunting on public land is in New Zealand, a country with a very similar problem with introduced feral animals as our own, but our Kiwi cousins have taken the emotion out of legal legitimate hunting, and simply enjoy it for what it is, without the fear Australian hunters receive which is being ostracised and ridiculed as bloodthirsty "rambos" which is a far cry from who we are and what we represent.

I am a responsible 45 yr old man with two wonderful children and a loving wife. I am a professional within the oil and Gas sector in Perth, and in everything I do in my work life is driven by safety, and the same applies to my use of firearms, safety is paramount in every aspect of the correct use of guns, and I strongly believe that the majority of law abiding Western Australian Firearms owners fall into the same category as myself, honest hard working, responsible men and women who would use public land to assist eradicate feral animals in the safest and strictest manner possible which will benefit the state, our flora and fauna, local business, (but maybe not my hip pocket :-)

I thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Warm regards

Derek Hall