

31 January, 2014

Western Australian Parliament  
Public Administration Committee  
Legislative Council

**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRIBUTION OF  
RECREATIONAL HUNTING SYSTEMS**

To whom it may concern,

I wish to lodge a submission in to matter of the use licensed recreation hunting systems and potential environmental contribution in controlling pest animals on public lands.

I myself am a recreational shooter, and fully support the notion to allow recreational hunting on public lands. This would most certainly assist in the control of vermin which not only destroy native bush land but takes from our native species, the nutrients and resources which they need to survive making numbers scarce with each coming year.

I understand the concerns of residents who may be against the use of firearms on public land, and these concerns should be addressed by way of a register of shooters who have been granted approval to shoot on public land. This would be mandatory should you wish to shoot, and if not fines would apply. I feel most shooters would gladly give over their details for the right to shoot on public land. This would also keep tabs on how many people have approval, and help regulate the number of people shooting at any one time. If you intend to shoot, you must call to say where you will be, the approximate time of your hunt, and how many people you may be with etc.

What most people don't understand is that in order to get a firearms license you must undergo firearms awareness training and be approved by the Western Australian Police. An applicant for a firearms license undergoes background checks and must justify their need for the rifle/handgun whilst also submitting a letter from property owner who will allow them to shoot on their land. It is not merely a system whereby anyone can purchase a firearm. Anyone who has been approved is deemed to be fit in the eyes of the approving officer and WAPOL. I myself am a registered commercial real estate representative, I think of myself as a responsible young man and not a gun crazy redneck, as I think the general public believes.

Gun ownership carries a great responsibility, which I am all too aware of. We, like our fellow countrymen in other states are more than responsible enough to hunt feral animals such as camel, boar, fox, rabbits, and cane toad which threaten native species. Please give us an opportunity to prove we can help, as well as prove that we stand for responsible gun ownership and safety.

Should you wish to contact me I have listed my details below. I am passionate on the matter and would be more than happy discuss further.

Yours faithfully

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✓ Alex Taylor

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