

John Jury

Lauren Mesiti
Committee Clerk
Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council
GPO Box A11
Perth WA 6837



Thursday 27 March 2014

Dear Lauren

Submission to: Inquiry into Recreational Hunting on Public Lands

In requesting the committee accept this submission, I would offer the following reasons for utilising the recreational shooting fraternity and the benefits that will be gained in adopting a system where recreational shooters have access to public lands.

My experience in pest management in the rangelands and agricultural districts is extensive have been an active member of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) for the last 30 years and a foundation member of the WA Hunting for Conservation Branch which started in the early 1990's and still continues today. I hold degree level studies in agriculture and rangeland management, along with Honours which researched the ownership level held by people residing closely or adjunct to public lands.

More importantly, is my strong conservation beliefs stemming from a near lifetime of involvement with various natural history and land conservation groups. Within this experience I have travelled extensively throughout Australia and the regions interfacing with the Agricultural, Mining, Civil Construction and Land Conservation industries.

The fundamental principal of this submission relates to the stewardship land managers must accept, particularly where changes in land use or delineation through fencing (or other means) is implemented. This responsibility includes the population management of animals where they are restricted by boundaries or control of animals where they are introduced.

Rationale for third party management of pest animals:

The Hunting for Conservation group has undertaken numerous project on behalf of land managers, both public and private. In all cases when I was a team leader for the project, at the opening meeting I would ask the reasons the land manager did not undertake the cull themselves. Reasons included:

Unwillingness	Many saw the process as an unsavoury task, particularly where family, friends and children would know the activity was undertaken.
Waste	Most land managers saw the waste as undesirable and unattractive, whereas most recreational hunters take the product away for use.
Lack of time	In all cases land managers did not have the long periods of time available to track down target species.

