

## Public Administration Committee

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**From:** Bruce Fisher  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 March 2014 8:00 AM  
**To:** Public Administration Committee  
**Subject:** I Support Public Land Hunting

Dear Ms Mesiti,

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 feral animals.

I am in favour of it because the humane killing animals for consumption and to assist the environment reflects the values of our community.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting will not lead to unacceptable animal suffering. Ethical amateur shooters are dedicated to positive welfare outcomes, and there is less opportunity that animals will suffer prolonged and agonising deaths than by being eaten alive by predators such as wild dogs, cats and foxes, ethical hunters will not allow an injured animal to be left behind injured. Ethical and licensed hunters do not target wildlife and other animals will certainly not be put at greater risk of injury and death by this plan.

I also believe that WA public lands should be kept safe for all members of the community. Licensed and controlled shooting does not endanger public safety, especially because of the difficulty in obtaining a firearms license. Policing shooting practices and enforcing laws in often remote areas is not a risk as is evident with numerous ethical shooters shooting on remote station and agricultural properties already.

Finally, I support recreational shooting as a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. It's backed up as an effective approach by scientific evidence as is used in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and New Zealand.

Most importantly, there are no other, more humane and effective or selective solutions available to address this issue. As population management of introduced species is necessary, it should be done professionally and humanely, and amateur shooters, properly licensed and trained are a cost effective and efficient means of controlling feral animals on crown lands.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature, some choose to shoot animals, this is an activity that has been part of humanity since the beginning of time. This activity will not put people and animals unnecessarily at risk for this popular plan.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Bruce Fisher