

Public Administration Committee

From: Maurizio Casadio
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 9:53 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry into recreational hunting systems in Western Australia

To:

- Lauren Mesiti,
- Committee Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Administration

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

- **It is often claimed by animal welfare advocates that hunting inevitably causes stress, pain and injury to animals. They also claim that it can never be humane, is unnecessary and unethical. This is misleading as were humanity to abandon hunting as a means to put food on the table, humanity would inevitably starve. In this I have to point out that hunting is simply a word that describes the process of putting meat on the menu. Certainly if one considers domesticated animals and the processes that are involved in putting meat on the table, the aim inevitably places the food source in humanity's sights and inevitably humanity benefit. To claim otherwise is an outright lie.**

One can also add that Aboriginal people often hunt to supplement their food supply. To claim that this practice is not humane, is unnecessary and unethical, places them forever on the outer fringes of society, never to be acknowledged as human beings. This mindset should not be encouraged or allowed to flourish as clearly should animal welfare advocates ever have control of our lives the vast majority of aboriginal people would be branded as inhuman, cruel and unethical.

- **Another animal welfare claim is that young animals are orphaned by shooting, are left vulnerable and likely to die of starvation or be killed by predators. Besides the fact that organised, ethical hunting is unlikely to be undertaken with the purpose of causing unnecessary stress, pain or injury to targeted animals, this claim inevitably misses the mark as the pest animals that are being considered as legitimate targets are guilty of much more than what certain animal welfare advocates accuse hunters of.**

Evidently Native species are in most cases not well adapted to compete against pest or invasive species. Certainly there are areas where hunting has been the prime method of finishing the job of clearing pest animals. If not entirely cleared, the numbers and their impact on vulnerable native species have been reduced by each shot hitting its mark. To claim otherwise is another inconvenient lie.

- **Another claim is that hunters kill for fun and does not reflect the values of our community in 2014. It is just humbug by animal welfare advocates to claim that hunting does not reflect the values of our community in 2014. If that were correct there is certainly no fun attached to the national pastime of putting food on the table. Certainly**

hunters make use of the meat obtained through hunting and if not on their menu then certainly on the menu of household pets.

- **Another claim is that – recreational shooting is difficult to control and police, and poses a risk to members of the community using public lands. Given that safety is of prime concern to members of the hunting fraternity this is a nebulous claim. Cooperation with law enforcement agencies, adherence to safety protocols and self-policing remain the cornerstones of ethical hunting. The police are guaranteed an approachable group made up of law abiding citizens who would certainly be easier to manage than protest groups who are intent on entertaining the risk of intentionally placing themselves in direct line of fire.**
- **I certainly support the idea of allowing hunting as a means to control pest or invasive species in and on public lands.**

Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind Regards,

Maurizio Casadio