

Public Administration Committee

From: Gordon Heron ·
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2014 8:28 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry in to Recreational Hunting on WA Lands

Dear Ms Mesit,

As a resident of Western Australia I would like to express my views regarding the inquiry into recreational hunting. Many years ago man had to hunt to stay alive and produce food for the table, over the years many things have changed and man has been deprived of these hunting skills relying on large companies to produce our daily living requirements and losing sight of what we are all about. I consider myself as one of the lucky ones as my father many years ago took me on my first fishing trip at the tender age of eight to teach me about a world of recreational fishing a sport that I have taken great pride in and now travel the world looking to catch that 50 pound salmon or just get out into nature's way, away from the burdens of every day life. This activity then seen me take up the sport of shooting and again I have travelled far and wide to follow my passions. Sadly over the years my adventures are limited due to the fact that W.A has so much red tap rapped around these two sports. Why cant W.A follow in the foot steps of our other States and introduce recreational fishing and hunting in our State Forests. Is it easier for our government just to adapt a no go policy and get the backing of every one that's against it? Yes there will be concvercity from those for and those against. I would just like to point out a few facts for the recreational hunters side. Over the years the introduction of some of our ferial animals (rabbit ,foxes ,wild dog,pigs) have had a huge environmental explosion on our State leading to the loss of native flora and fauna species even to the extent of extinction, this is also the case of our breeding stocks of fish where the introduction of red fin was adopted to reduce numbers of native fish stocks. We now have a huge problem in our dams and water ways with the loss of fresh water Yabbies and Marron. These are just some of the examples facing a government of the past to bury there head in the sand hoping one day it will fix its self, that day has now come when farmers are leaving there stations and walking away from an once thriving and prosperous business around W.A due to the fact they can no longer compete against crises numbers of ferial animals, slaughtering there lively hoods and consuming animal foods. Its now time to follow other States and introduce the trained conservation under strict guidelines, ensuring public safety at all times, this must surly be the way forward for the State of W.A. One question surly to be asked is the spread of Dieback.

Phytophthora dieback refers to the deadly introduced plant disease caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (pronounced Fy-tof-thora - meaning plant destroyer in Greek). There are over 50 species of *Phytophthora*, but the species that causes the most severe and widespread damage to native plants in Western Australia is *P. cinnamomi*.

In the past, *Phytophthora dieback* has been known as 'dieback' and 'jarrah dieback'. Unfortunately, these names have contributed to confusion about the pathogen. For example, in other parts of Australia, the term 'dieback' is used to describe tree decline caused by such factors as salinity, drought or insect damage. Furthermore, the disease affects a huge number of introduced and native plant species other than Jarrah. Therefore, to overcome this confusion, the term 'Phytophthora Dieback' is now used.

Phytophthora Dieback spends its entire life in the soil and in plant tissue. It causes root rot in susceptible plants, thereby limiting or stopping the uptake of water and nutrients. The Pathogen is able to survive within plant roots during the dry soil conditions commonly experienced during the summer months forests in the Eastern Metropolitan area are highly infested with the disease. With the existence of all types of animals carrying these pours on their hoofs and wind assisting the spread of this disease will always be a major problem to W.A. Under the guidance of The Department of Parks and Wildlife with the help of conservation volunteers and the shooting parties that will visit these areas this problem could be

monitored and programs put in place to stop the spread and the destruction of our State Forests, doing nothing we will only see the damage when its too late. Moisture Aid is a Granular Wetting Agent for Turf, Nurseries, Potting Mix, Landscaping, Forestry, Councils, Estate Gardens, Flowers and any other situation where Water Repellent soils are not allowing Water and Nutrients to get into the Root Zone. This slow release granular formulation dramatically improves the wettability and water holding capacity of soils and potting mixes.

Features

- MoisturAid is a granular wetting agent suitable for a broad range of horticultural applications
- MoisturAid dramatically improves the wettability & water holding capacity of soils and potting mixes
- MoisturAid overcomes hydrophobic (water repellent) and water logging problems, eliminates dry spots, improves drainage, optimises water and fertiliser availability, reduces stress and increases plant survival rates
- MoisturAid is a slow release granular formulation with the active ingredient made available over an extended period of time, usually up to six months. This is not the case with liquid wetting agents which require frequent repeat application
- Also unlike liquid wetting agents, there is no need for irrigation immediately after an application
- MoisturAid is easily spread over the surface or incorporated into the soil or potting mix
- MoisturAid saves time, water and plants

How It Works

MoisturAid undergoes a Unique Manufacturing process which impregnates a liquid wetting agent into the chosen carrier material (a fossilised sponge). This process makes the active ingredient available over a much longer period of time, usually up to six months. The Wetting Agent is released in the presence of irrigation or rainfall. MoisturAid works by decreasing the natural surface tension of applied water to ensure irrigation water or rainfall filters through to the root zone.

I would now hope you have an insight on what am trying to put forward to you and hope this email helps with your decision to step outside the box and consider the way forward for family's young and old to enjoy the great outdoors and the way forward for W.A

Regards
Gordon Heron