

Public Administration Committee

From: Hadyn de Jonge
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 1:35 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Inquiry into the potential environmental contribution of recreational hunting systems

Dear Committee,

As with other States in Australia, recreational hunting on public land has a profound impact on pest management as well as providing a good and wholesome pastime for persons who enjoy the sport. Western Australia has a very strict licensing policy which should ensure that all licensed firearm users comply with relative legislation. This means that the vast majority of persons who possess firearms in the state are honest law abiding citizens many of whom would enjoy and grow from such experiences. Hunting enthusiasts who live in towns and cities can often find it difficult to find places to legally hunt and this policy could go a long way towards protecting a very safe and fulfilling sport.

Obviously, such a move will draw much criticism from persons who do not fully understand the sport but it is important to focus on and emphasise the benefits which recreational hunting will bring both to landowners and the general community. It is for this reason that I wholeheartedly support moving towards opening up public lands to recreational hunting provided it is done in a safe manner. I believe it is necessary to carefully examine the systems in other states and use their programs as a guide and to learn from mistakes that arose and to ensure that any system to be implemented in Western Australia is as effective and 'red-tape' free as it can possibly be.

Sincerely,

Hadyn de Jonge