

Public Administration Committee

From: Paul Palladino
Sent: Monday, 24 March 2014 9:41 AM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Humane destruction feral & pest animals in WA

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 strongly agree to recreational hunting of introduced feral & pest animals in WA.

I am an advocate in reducing feral & pest animals in our environment as it does reflect the values of our community in 2014 & giving our native animals fighting chance in survival.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting will lead to an increase in the chances for our natives to rebound & hopefully get off the endangered animals list. Effectively policing of amateur shooters is not required as they are already deemed of sound mind & judgement to hold a firearms licence in WA which has the toughest laws in the country. There are also marksmanship training & testing to ensure humane & ethical destruction of the animal to ensure they will not suffer prolonged deaths, or be left behind injured. Wildlife and other animals will not be at risk of injury and death by this plan as ethical hunters always identify their target & beyond to ensure a safe shot is taken.

I also believe that WA public lands should be kept safe for all members of the community. Shooting does not endanger public safety, because it can be done safely with appropriate community notices & signage. Ethical shooting practices are always in mind especially in remote areas.

Finally, I support recreational shooting as a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. It's a common sense approach to feral & pest control. Most importantly, the other solutions available to address this issue, like poisoning is not as humane as it is not a quick & instantaneous death. Other animals are at risk if they eat the poisoned animal. If population management of introduced species is necessary, it should be done humanely by amateur shooters, who abide by the hunters code of ethics.

Having positively identified a target species, hunters should only shoot if they are sure:

It is safe to do so

The target is within range

The gun/cartridge combination being used is appropriate for the type and size of animal targeted.

The hunter is confident of hitting and killing the animal or bird. The hunter is able to recover the shot animal or bird.

Using professional hunters will be a very expensive solution, volunteer hunters supply their own fuel, ammunition & time to participate in being part of the solution for feral & pest animal control. Conservation hunters should be held in high regard & the first choice for their native animal life saving work.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature & want to see our native animals, not feral & pest introduced species in plague proportions destroying our fragile habitat.

Please endorse this popular plan as most people would agree that a cost effective solution provided by ethical trained hunters is a great outcome for the Government & the community.

Thank you for considering my submission.