

Public Administration Committee

From: Jill Harrison
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2014 5:30 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Protect animals in WA from 'recreational' shooting

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 opposed to recreational hunting of any animals, introduced or otherwise.

This proposal opens up the field for anyone with access to a gun who enjoys blood sports to have free rein to shoot animals just for the thrill they gain from it. These people have no consideration or care for whether the animals they shoot are killed outright or wounded. These 'recreational' shooters are primarily interested in boasting about how many animals they have shot in a day, and have no interest in whether they have actually mercifully killed the animals, or whether they will suffer a slow and agonising death, which may take days or weeks, depending on how badly they are wounded and whether they are able to hunt for food.

I am opposed to this because shooting animals for fun is completely unacceptable under any guise. In 2014 the human race should have advanced enough to see how wrong this kind of mindless, brutal and inhumane activity is. Only certain kinds of people enjoy the thought of shooting helpless animals, and these kinds of people should not be encouraged, but rather prevented from indulging in this dreadful 'sport' at all costs.

Opening up WA to recreational shooting will lead to unacceptable animal suffering. It is neither feasible or possible to effectively police amateur shooters. If this proposal is implemented, these unprofessional and unpredictable people will be pouring out of the woodwork. There can be no guarantees that animals will not suffer prolonged deaths, or be left behind injured. Wildlife and other animals will also 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. Shooting endangers public safety, especially because of the difficulty in policing shooting practices and enforcing laws in often remote areas. I for one do not want to have my life, or the lives of anyone, put at risk by some gun-crazy shooter who fires at anything that moves.

Finally, I don't support recreational shooting as a 'solution' for 'management' of introduced species. It's not backed up as an effective approach by scientific evidence. Most importantly, there are other, more humane and effective solutions available to address this issue. If population management of introduced species is necessary, it should be done professionally and humanely, not by amateur shooters.

Most Western Australians enjoy the outdoors and nature, without ever wanting to shoot animals. It is imperative not to put people and animals unnecessarily at risk for this unpopular plan.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Jill Harrison