

## Public Administration Committee

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**From:** steve.hogan@  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 March 2014 2:07 PM  
**To:** Public Administration Committee  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Recreational Hunting on Public Lands submission Steve Hogan

Hello Committee Members,  
Thank you very much for giving your time to consider this proposal.

My view is that recreational hunting on public lands would provide a range of benefits to the community.

The benefits would include;

- Allowing law abiding recreational hunters access to extensive areas of the state to pursue their chosen recreation.
- Low cost feral animal control in these public areas resulting in less pressure on native species from competition and predation, leading to improvements in native flora and fauna abundance.
- Reduced impact from feral animals on adjoining pastoral areas.

Potential risks would include;

- Destruction of native wildlife by unscrupulous individuals.
- Recreations hunter interaction with other public space users.

The government spends a significant amount of money on feral animal control, including paying professional shooters to cull feral populations. This is a task that in a lot of cases would be done by recreational hunters at no cost to the taxpayer. In fact, if it could be set up so that the DPW could liaise with hunters and direct them to the areas of worst infestation that would be a win-win situation.

Those concerned that allowing recreational hunters access will cause damage to native fauna should consider the fact that those unlikely to follow rules are already hunting native fauna on public land. Allowing licensed hunters access is more likely to improve the situation as there will be more law abiding people out and about with a personal interest in seeing the right thing done.

It should be relatively easy to minimise the interaction between recreational hunters and other public space users by applying common sense to the management process. It is obviously in nobody's interest to encourage recreational hunting in prime tourist locations. There are several million hectares of conservation area that would be lucky to see a single human being each year. These vast empty spaces host huge numbers of feral animals creating environmental issues. In reality a buffer of a few kilometres is all that is needed between shooters and other people. Once you get away from the metropolitan areas it is quite easy to maintain this buffer.

I live in Kalgoorlie where there are large feral populations of goats, camels, dogs, cats and rabbits within easy driving distance. The local archery and gun clubs are quite active with significant memberships. Some of the recreational hunters in this area establish relationships with local pastoralists and hunt on their stations with permission. This situation is not possible for all local hunters. Opening public land for recreational hunting will allow local people to get out bush, enjoy their chosen recreation, feed their family and reduce feral animal populations.