

Public Administration Committee

From: Amand Elphick
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2014 8:33 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: I SUPPORT FERAL ANIMAL CULLING

Dear Ms Mesiti,

I have grown up in the Perth Hills area and am fully aware of the damage feral pests such as pigs, foxes, rabbits and cats can cause - both to the environment and native fauna. I have also been working on cattle stations in the Kimberley region for the past six years and have witnessed on a larger scale the destruction to waterways such as the Fitzroy and Margaret rivers and smaller adjoining creeks and billabongs caused by feral pigs. I have seen first hand the horrific damage that feral dogs have done to calves. These small animals have absolutely no defence when a pack of feral dogs have singled out a young calf (many I have seen were younger than 3 weeks old) and have torn its ears off, scratched its eyes and face among other gory wounds. If the calf survives, on all the stations I have worked on we would take the animal back to the homestead to be reared with a formula and doctor it the best we could. I have looked after calves that have been bitten on the neck, the puncture wounds becoming so infected they literally rot from the inside out. Most calves I have looked after have had some percentage of their ears torn/damaged due to feral dogs, this being a very minor wound compared to other injuries I have witnessed. But the people who are in favour of stopping baiting and shooting say it "does not reflect the values of our community in 2014".

I wonder how many - if any at all - who are of this viewpoint have ever seen mutilated calves like I have? I hate the idea of animals like the above mentioned calves suffering in the way they do after being mauled by feral dogs, which is why I am pro shooting feral dogs. I hate the idea of the bushland around where I grew up and the Kimberley region that I have come to love to be decimated, eroded and destroyed by feral pests, which is why I am pro shooting feral pigs and goats. I hate the idea of the small, native birds such as honey eaters and wrens not being around, which is why I am pro shooting feral cats and foxes.

I am a member of the SSAA, the Mundaring Marksmen Association and the Conservation and Wildlife Management group. I am 23 years old and I believe future generations should be able to grow up in the Perth Hills and enjoy our unique bushland environment and native fauna just as I have, which is why I am pro culling the feral pests in the Perth Hills and all of regional Western Australia.

Thankyou for reading my submission and considering my viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Amand Elphick