

Public Administration Committee

From: Jan van Niekerk
Sent: Thursday, 27 March 2014 10:10 PM
To: Public Administration Committee
Subject: Submission regarding hunting of feral animals on public land

Mrs Mesiti,

Herewith I submit my view regarding recreational hunting on public land in Western Australia - from the perspective of an experienced firearm owner, hunter, target shooter and responsible, law-abiding firearm owner and user.

My experience includes the hunting of feral goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, foxes etc. on farming land and station country.

This model is employed with great success in other states within Australia as well as other countries and the benefits are significant. The most important aspect are

- a worthwhile and healthy outdoor activity which contributes to local economies (firearms, fuel, accessories, accommodation, etc.),
- improved environmental outcomes for our native animals,
- improved profitability for farmers, and
- the continuation of a healthy culture and pastime for children and adults alike, all at no cost to the taxpayer.

I believe it is important to have a safety focused licensing system to ensure the continuation of our excellent firearms safety record.

Proficiency based training will facilitate the humane dispatch of feral pest animals and ensure safe firearm use on public lands, where public land lends itself to such use.

I trust my submission will be of some use in your inquiry.

Yours truly

Jan van Niekerk