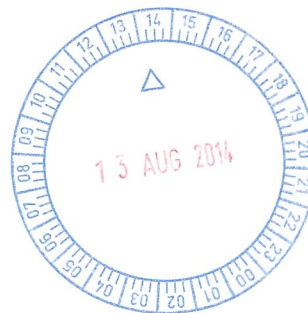




Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (W.A.) Inc.

Box D154 GPO
PERTH 6840



To: Honourable William (Bill) Richard Marmion MLA BE, MBA,
Minister for the Environment.
Government of Western Australia
29th Floor Allendale Square, 77 St Georges Terrace, Perth W.A. 6000

SPORTING SHOOTER'S ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA (WA) Inc.

Conservation and Wildlife Management initiatives

Dear Sir,

I would like to take the opportunity to make you aware of our long standing involvement Conservation and Wildlife initiatives within WA and to give you some background information on our Association. The Sporting Shooter's Association of Australia (WA) Inc. currently has over 6,000 members. (Nationally we have approximately 130,000). Our members are involved in all facets of the competitive shooting sports as well as recreational shooting and we are recognised as being the peak representative body for shooters in Australia.

SSAA is focused at further protecting the environment by reducing the number of invasive \ feral and introduced species which has the added benefit of reducing the damaging effects on land degradation and native Flora and Fauna. As part of this focus we have for some time been conducting Conservation programs with specific focus on the control of pest species on both private and crown land.

In WA we have been conducting SSAA conservation activities since 1994. There are similar SSAA Conservation groups operating in other states of Australia with the most noteworthy being a long term (and very successful) project of goat control in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia.

Some examples of projects undertaken in this state include:-

- The control of feral pigs and goats in a number of State Forests and National Parks under the direction of the D.E.C.
- Widespread control of foxes on agricultural land. (We maintain a working relationship with the Malleefowl Preservation Group based in Ongerup)
- Involvement in the Red Card for Fox program
- The ongoing supply of rabbit carcasses to the Eagles Heritage raptor park near Busselton. (feed for the injured raptors)
- Removal of wild cattle from forest and plantation.
- "One of" tasks to deal with specific nuisance animals.
- Minor projects have included the control of feral cats at municipal rubbish tips, "nuisance" animals at a regional airport, fund raising for conservation groups via sponsored fox shoots and involvement in community team fox shoots. We have also undertaken control of ducks on cereal crops and crows in commercial vineyards as per the relevant sections of the Wildlife Act.
- Our Northern Territory SSAA Hunting & Conservation teams have undertaken major feral pig control projects on private properties in the far North of this state.

All our members are covered by the Association's \$20 million public liability insurance Operational trips undertaken on managed lands are supervised by a designated team leader who has complete responsibility for the team. All our members are subject to the group's Operational Instructions document.

PUBLIC
13/8/14.

From the land manager's viewpoint using our organisation for volunteer operations has a number of advantages.

- We undertake responsibility for our own insurance and liability.
- We maintain a strict supervision of our members and their activities.
- We are able to operate to written and agreed guidelines.
- All results and activities are able to be documented with relevant information and statistics reported to the land manager.
- We are able to provide land owners and relevant authorities with information not directly related to our project (observation of notable plant & animals, illegal activities etc).
- We are able to advise as to the viability of proposed projects. (And have declined a number of proposed projects because of safety or other concerns).
- We are able to operate at no cost to the landowner / manager.
- As an Association we have a long standing and successful record of negotiation and cooperation with many government departments.
- Our clubs can also assist with "Eyes in the bush" similar to the highly successful police "Eyes on the street" campaign by reporting in to DEC on sightings of illegal\ suspicious activity, littering, land degradation and prevalence in areas of threatened\ endangered species and Introduced species.

Thus far our regional Conservation branches have worked independently of each other when negotiating with their local DEC District Office this has been somewhat fragmented in its approach where we feel we are being underutilised. We would be keen to discuss a more comprehensive state wide agreement. An agreement would allow government land managers more effective use of our resources supplementing DEC Staff, caretakers and currently used contractors for this purpose. Also in light of the recent Parliamentary Inquiry report into DEC's management of its land, (See attached articles) with regard to resumed pastoral land we feel we have much to offer also remembering we do so at no cost to Government.

Aside from SSAA Conservation programs we would like to further discuss the use of suitably licensed general recreational hunters for the control of pest and feral species on government land in a similar manner to the NSW model, this concept in New South Wales is via a government supervised agency (NSW game council) and using shooters who have been appropriately accredited and licensed and has some possibilities for WA.

Ron Bryant

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia WA Inc

27/3/11