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18th May 2016

Natural Resources Commission

nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

Re: <http://www.nrc.nsw.gov.au/submissions-pest-animal-review>

Dear Administrator of the Natural Resources Commission,

I wish to make a submission to your current review of pest animal management.

I am happy for my submission to be made public, and I would like to be kept updated re developments on the review.

I am addressing recommendations 22(i), 23(i) and 23 (ii), to which I am opposed

Reasons for non-support of these recommendations

I do not support any concessions to so-called recreational hunters. In Australia we have the resources and education facilities to provide fully qualified and certified professional pest animal controllers. It is not humane to hunt, kill and injure animals for sporting purposes. Many published research papers from America and Europe including a 2013 RSPCA paper, referring to Recreational Hunting and Animal Welfare, clearly documented the evidence showing that professional hunters were far more effective and efficient in dealing with pest animals than amateurs. Your own draft report cites the view of the RSPCA on this matter, yet your recommendations disregard this information.

You have the opportunity as an agent acting on behalf of the Australian government, to show awareness and responsibility aligned with current thinking of the majority of the Australian population on animal rights issues, to condemn any amateur hunting of feral animals in our State and National Parks.

People have high expectations in regard to humane treatment of our fellow beings, and governments which outsource their responsibilities, particularly to people who enjoy killing, are completely out of touch. By the use of professional hunters, you will stop encouraging animal slaughter as entertainment and recreation.

I am fearful of members of the public being involved in shooting accidents in State and National parks. Increased risk of domestic animals being injured on land bordering State and national parks.

"Pest animals can be shot either from the ground or from the air. Although common, ground shooting of pests is not considered to be a highly effective technique for most pest animals because it is time consuming and shooters can cover only a relatively small area." <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Olsen98.pdf> page 59.

Suggestions for improvement in pest animal management

Employ professionals and land managers to systematically reduce pest animal numbers humanely.

Invest in scientific research to introduce methods of reduced reproduction and breeding.

Pay farmers to retrain and work professionally to control numbers of pest animals on their own and neighbouring public land.

What we need are new solutions to old problems. . . .

"Strategies for increasing public awareness

and the need to consider animal welfare concerns in the context of the costs and benefits of control are integral parts of successful pest management."

- killing or removing by poisoning, shooting, trapping or mustering;
- exclusion;
- biological control;
- habitat manipulation.

<http://www.pestsmart.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Olsen98.pdf>

Any other comments?

Amateur hunting inevitably means cruelty to animals. It also means more guns in circulation. This is not an activity which governments should be promoting. Gun proliferation in Australia is on the increase, we want no more excuses for the public (other than farmers, police and military) to buy or use guns. Please put more public funding toward proper environmental management of pest animals and stop treating these creatures as nothing more than targets in a bloodthirsty so-called "sport".

Yours sincerely,
Amanda Wheatley