

Peter Cormick
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25 May 2016

Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001
nrc@nrc.nsw.gov.au

To whom this concerns

Pest Animal Management Review – Draft Report March 2016

I am a rural land holder who accepts the need for and supports soundly-based, necessary, humane control of genuine threats to our environment, created by introduced, invasive vertebrate species in NSW – provided such control is conducted by professionals.

At the same time, I am strongly opposed to any recommendations or measures that promote the killing of animals as a 'recreation', or 'sport', as it is often referred to. It is plain nonsense and insulting to one's intelligence to be told that the hunting of a defenceless deer, for example, using a high-powered rifle, with a scope, is a sport. It is nothing of the kind.

On reading through the report and particularly the Fact Sheets, I wondered if they have been written by the Shooters and Fishers Party. They could hardly be more supportive of the party's agenda. The report, as a whole, is proposing an open slather approach to hunting.

My wife and I live in the hinterland of the Eurobodalla, on the South Coast, and we reject completely the assertion in the Deer Management Fact Sheet that there is a "feral deer hotspot" along the South Coast. We have lived here for 20 years and have travelled extensively through the area. As well, as a surveyor, I have moved through some pretty thick bush, and I have never seen a single deer in the area. My wife saw one, magnificent, stag some five years ago. And that's the extent of our – and our neighbour's sightings.

On the matter of so-called feral horses, the only humane way of getting their numbers under control is through some form of fertility control. And this approach should also be taken in controlling deer numbers. A cowboy, shoot 'em up approach is manifestly barbaric. We are meant to be *evolving* as a species.

In summary, I am grateful for this opportunity to comment on the report and ask that my comments above and opposition to recommendations 16, 20, 22 and 23, in particular, be taken into account.

Yours sincerely,

