



Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef,
Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

Our Ref: CTS 05176/19
Your Ref: A422866

27 MAR 2019

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2019 regarding Parliamentary Petition No. 3003-18 and a proposed trial of recreational hunting in Queensland State forests.

The Queensland Government does not support recreational hunting in State forests and has no plans to open these areas for hunting as it is inconsistent with long standing management arrangements for State forests in Queensland.

The Department of Environment and Science, through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Partnerships (QPWS&P), has a duty of care to protect State forests and to ensure the safety of tourists and visitors to these lands. Opportunities for recreational hunting are not limited in Queensland. Outside of State forest land there are significant opportunities for such activities to occur. For example, approximately 45 per cent of the State is leased as pastoral holding and another 24 per cent is freehold land. With a landholder's permission significant opportunities for recreational hunting are available on these lands. I would encourage recreational hunters to pursue these opportunities to support their interest in hunting.

Landowners in Queensland, including lessees of State forest, have a responsibility under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with declared pest animals on their lands. The objective of QPWS&P pest control programs is to achieve significant and lasting reductions in the overall size of targeted pest animal populations to reduce or remove their specific impacts.

Recreational hunters can become members of the Sporting Shooters' Association Australia and participate in programs to target feral animals on some freehold and public lands, including those managed by the Queensland Government. For example, QPWS&P successfully collaborates with the Conservation and Wildlife Management Queensland Branch of the Sporting Shooters' Association Australia who support priority pest control programs which contribute to enhanced conservation outcomes. These operations are conducted under a formal agreement to ensure compliance with QPWS&P policy and requirements of the *Weapons Act 1990*, the *Forestry Act 1959*, the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and other relevant legislation.

I would be pleased if you would arrange for the tabling of this letter in response to the Petition in accordance with Standing Order 32.

I trust that this information has been of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely


Leeanne Enoch MP

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