



Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Hon Dr John McVeigh MP

Reference: CTS No. 30337/14

19 DEC 2014

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

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2014 about Petition 2274-14 which requests the formation of a *Queensland Pest and Game Management Authority* and access to hunting on state lands for recreational hunters.

I am aware of the impacts of feral animals in Queensland and the Queensland Government is committed to optimising control of feral animal impacts. Queensland's legislation provides a framework for the control of declared pest animals such as feral pigs, feral deer, feral cats, wild dogs, rabbits and feral goats. Queensland does not have legislation that classifies some species as game.

Landholders, including lessees and managers of state land are responsible for the management of declared pest animals on the land under their control. The effective control of pest animals requires a strategic, integrated approach where a range of control methods are used. The choice of the most effective control method is based on the individual situation and research findings.

Unlike other Australian states and territories, DAFF does not regulate hunting on private land to prevent unnecessary regulatory burden. With the permission of the landholder, either freehold land or land under pastoral lease can provide significant opportunities for recreational shooting.

I am aware that several shooting organisations have arrangements in place to match recreational shooters with primary producers. I am also advised that there are organisations which arrange rural volunteering and this may also allow recreational shooters to meet primary producers and source areas for future recreational shooting.

The Queensland Government does not, at this point in time, believe there is a need for further regulation regarding the management of hunting and pest management and is not considering the establishment of a Queensland Game and Pest Management Authority.

Level 8 Primary Industries Building
80 Ann Street Brisbane 4000
GPO Box 46 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 07 3719 7560
Facsimile +61 07 3220 6230
Email daff@ministerial.qld.gov.au

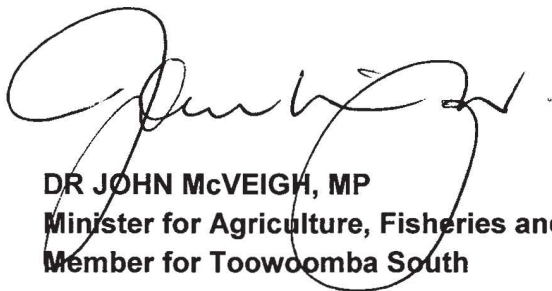
Depending on the species to be controlled, methods of control can include fencing, shooting, trapping, baiting and the use of guardian animals. In general, pest management operations on national parks and state forests are undertaken by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) through its network of trained and accredited rangers and/or contractors across Queensland. QPWS does engage the Sporting Shooters' Association to undertake control of declared pests on selected protected areas under a contractual arrangement with strict guidelines and controls and supervised by QPWS staff.

I am advised that the protected area estate and state forests represent less than seven per cent of the total land area of Queensland. Of the remaining land, approximately 45 per cent is leased as pastoral holdings and another 24 per cent is freehold land.

The Government currently has no plans to allow recreational shooting in the protected area estate, including national parks and state forests. These areas have never previously been open for authorised recreational hunting.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Dr John Robertson of DAFF on telephone 07 3087 8065 or email John.Robertson@daff.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John McVeigh', is written over a circular stamp or seal. The signature is fluid and cursive.

DR JOHN McVEIGH, MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Member for Toowoomba South