

Submission
No 24

**INQUIRY INTO GAME AND FERAL ANIMAL
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CONSERVATION
HUNTING) BILL 2025**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 9 July 2025

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I write in strong support of the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation Hunting) Bill 2025. As a lifelong hunter and conservationist, with deep family roots in this tradition, I believe this bill brings much-needed reform to NSW's approach to hunting and land management.

Hunting is more than a pastime, it's a responsibility and a service to our environment. Our native ecosystems face increasing threats from invasive species, yet those in charge of controlling these populations continue to expose themselves as radical left ideologues who do not have conservation as their main goal.

The establishment of the Conservation Hunting Authority is a commendable step. It acknowledges that regulated, responsible hunting is an ally to conservation. It's about ethical, targeted efforts to manage invasive species like pigs, foxes, wild dogs, and feral cats, which cause significant harm to native wildlife and agriculture.

I also support the bill's provision allowing licensed hunters to use sound suppressors. In countries like the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, Germany, and South Africa, suppressors are standard hunting equipment, valued for reducing noise pollution and protecting hearing. Their use in NSW would align us with international best practices and enhance safety for both hunters and the public.

Expanding access to certain Crown lands, while maintaining appropriate safety and licensing requirements, is a practical move. It mirrors successful models in other states and recognises the role hunters play in land stewardship. I note the current inquiry into public land access in NSW is currently also accepting submissions.

The bill's recognition of hunting as a cultural right is also significant. Hunting is part of our heritage, passed down with pride and care. We manage our land, understand our species, and take our responsibilities seriously.

Furthermore, I endorse the introduction of bounty schemes for invasive species. Victoria's fox bounty program, which pays \$14 per fox scalp, has been effective in encouraging hunters to participate in pest control efforts. In 2022 alone, approximately 80,000 foxes were culled under this scheme. Implementing similar programs in NSW would incentivise the removal of destructive pests and support our regional communities.

I urge all members to support the passage of this bill. NSW has lagged behind for too long. This is an opportunity to modernise our approach, and incentivise citizens of NSW to assist in conservation efforts at their own expense – a win for commonsense and the NSW tax-payer.

Sincerely,