

Submission
No 39

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

Name: Ms Susan Barber

Date Received: 11 July 2025

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed bill that seeks to allow the use of public crown land for recreational hunting, specifically the provision allowing hunters to use silencers and indiscriminately kill various species of animals, including domestic dogs, cats, pigs, goats, and camels. The bill's potential to transform public land into a "killing field" is deeply concerning for many reasons including animal welfare and public safety, and I urge the committee to reject this bill in its entirety.

The Ethical and Humane Considerations:

At its core, this bill condones the brutal and inhumane treatment of animals, including vulnerable and defenceless wildlife. As a person involved in animal welfare, working to save lives, I am acutely aware of the devastating consequences that hunting can have on ecosystems. Allowing the killing of animals on public land will not only erode public trust in the safety of our parks and nature reserves but will also introduce the risk of innocent pets being harmed. Wounded adult animals are left to endure a prolonged death in the name of "sport" and helpless young animals orphaned and abandoned are doomed to suffer and die slowly.

Beyond the moral concerns, the public safety risks associated with this bill cannot be ignored. The use of over 500,000 hectares of public crown land, widely frequented by families, hikers, and outdoor enthusiasts is not a place to share with armed hunters especially when silencers are permitted. Being able to approach and kill undetected increase the chance of accidents and fatalities in both humans and animals. This bill, would put the wellbeing of ordinary people at serious risk. It would make public spaces unsafe for the community and effectively turn these places of recreation and relaxation into a free for all killing field.

Ineffectiveness of Hunting as a Population Control Measure:

There is a substantial body of scientific research that indicates hunting is not an effective nor sustainable method of controlling animal populations. In fact, studies show that such practices often have little to no long-term impact on species numbers and can even cause more harm to the ecosystem. The real solutions to managing wildlife populations lie in ethical, evidence-based strategies, such as the use of contraception, relocation programs, and habitat management.

Hunting, on the other hand, is an outdated and inhumane practice that fails to address the root causes of population imbalances, such as habitat destruction or changes in environmental conditions. The government's support of this bill, which relies on such primitive and cruel practices, stands in stark contrast to modern, ethical wildlife management approaches.

A Call for Compassionate Policy:

NSW must adopt evidence-based, ethical strategies that align with the growing public demand for humane and sustainable environmental solutions. The outdated ideas of using hunting as a form of population control are not only ineffective, but they also reflect a disregard for the welfare of animals and the safety of the public.

Instead of appointing a "Minister for Hunting and Fishing," I urge the government to establish a "Minister for Animals" to oversee the welfare of all sentient beings in New South Wales. This appointment would signal a shift towards a more compassionate and progressive

approach environmental management and animal welfare. It would also ensure that policy decisions prioritise the protection of vulnerable wildlife and the safe coexistence of animals and people.

Conclusion:

I implore the committee to reject this bill. It is a short-sighted, harmful proposal that risks the safety of both animals and people. Instead, I encourage the government to invest in more positive, progressive, scientifically backed methods to manage conservation. The future of our ecosystems—and the wellbeing of both animals and humans—depends on policies that promote respect, compassion, and sustainability.

Thank you for considering my submission. I trust that you will give serious thought to the long-term consequences of this bill and choose to protect the natural world and the people of New South Wales.

Susan Barber