

Submission  
No 386

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

**Name:** Mrs Rosemary Stapleton

**Date Received:** 3 August 2025

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Rosemary Stapleton

ORANGE EAST NSW 2800

The Standing Committee on State Development  
Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation) Hunting Bill  
NSW Legislative Council

**RE: The Parliamentary Inquiry into the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation) Hunting Bill.**

To Committee members,

I am writing as I have grave concerns for my safety and other members of the public if this Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation) Hunting Bill is enacted. This sort of hunting for sport and money is also not an evidence-based method of controlling feral animals to achieve conservation outcomes. The Bill should be rejected in full.

I am a citizen scientist who has done bird surveys across Central and Western NSW for the last 25 years, both as an individual, with my family and as a member of a birding group. Many of my survey sites are on Travelling Stock Reserves, in national parks and other types of reserves on public land. I have been able to do these surveys with no concerns about my safety from activity by ad hoc recreational shooters.

The term 'conservation' hunting should not be used as it is an attempt to green wash the sport of recreational hunting and a bounty system. Reviews of these activities in 1998 and 2024 showed that there was no real short- or long-term impact on vertebrate pest populations, such as feral pigs and rabbits. To make any meaningful impact on numbers of ferals at least 70% of the population needs to be removed every year. This will not occur with bounties as they have been shown to result in the death of less than 10% of the population. There is also anecdotal evidence from the previous bounty system that breeding animals were not removed from the population. Bounties actually provided an incentive to hunters to leave some animals so they could return in following seasons to get bounties for the animals that had breed up.

I have seen evidence of the damage of feral animals in the places I survey. I have a real concern for the future of the natural environments and species that remain. What is needed for feral animal control are evidence based, well controlled and monitored program that are funded much better than at present. I see that it is appropriate to use professional shooters in an integrated pest management program that includes baiting, as recommended by the NSW Resource Commission. Neighbours of reserves and parks must work together to be effective.

I do not agree with giving increased unfettered access, for recreational shooters, to all areas of public land, where there are current restrictions. The safety of other visitors to this land will

be at risk. Uncontrolled access will also increase the risk of the spread of diseases, such as Phytophthora and invasive weeds taken in on vehicles and footwear. These reserves are meant to protect and safeguard their environment and species for future generations. They were not created to provide a place for a select few sporting shooters to do their sport.

It concerns me greatly that 'conservation' hunting and shooting, possibly with silencers and other weapons, could be permitted on public reserves and TSRs. I visit with family and friends and at present I feel safe, but will I be if this Bill is passed? Visiting reserves and TSRs is good for our social, mental, and physical health. Will recreational shooting restrict when I can visit the reserves, as in State Forests? Would doing nocturnal surveys to monitor the threatened species, such as the Greater Glider, also be restricted? How can this ad hoc activity be monitored and controlled?

Current restrictions on recreational hunting should remain and I believe this Bill should be rejected in its entirety. Also, the Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016 should not be amended to permit recreational shooting on reserves and TSRs.

To protect and restore the environment an evidence-based integrated feral animal control program must be implemented and funded at a much greater level than at present and the outcomes monitored.

Yours sincerely,

Rosemary Stapleton  
3 August 2025

Australian Bureau of Resource Sciences, 1998. [ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF BOUNTIES IN VERTEBRATE PEST MANAGEMENT](#)

NSW Resources Commission, 2024. [Review of Invasive Species](#)