

**Submission
No 579**

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

Name: Mr Chris Ross

Date Received: 29 July 2025

This bill should be rejected in its entirety. The science is clear that recreational hunting and bounties do not have significant impact on the populations of fast breeding animals. There should be no removal of hunting bans in any area of NSW.

A national review of hunting under past Australian bounty schemes, conducted by the former Australian Bureau of Resource Sciences, concluded that 'No bounty scheme in Australia has had a noticeable short or long-term impact on vertebrate pest populations that have a high reproductive rate. To call this conservation hunting is totally false as it will have no impact on conservation of native animals.

The bill includes weakening of firearm laws and I am totally opposed to any legislation that makes guns easier to obtain or expands the type of weapons allowed. There should be no right to hunt, it is a privilege to be earned.

The original game council was disbanded due to governance issues and this bill seeks to re-instate it. This should not be allowed.

Far better solutions to conservation issues exist, invasive species are one of the highest impact threats to our native wildlife and ecosystems. Their effective management is essential to the health of the NSW environment; sparse conservation resources need to be channelled into the most effective, evidence-based control methods overseen by professionals, rather than hap-hazard hunting.

The role that recreational hunters play in integrated control programs must be determined by, and fall under the responsibility of, the NSW Environment Minister and the environment portfolio – not a standalone hunting entity.

If the intent of the bill was genuine, the Conservation Hunting Authority would be required to prepare a conservation strategy that outlines environmental goals and outcomes.

A more appropriate investment of time and resources would be to encourage land managers to identify targeted opportunities where recreational hunters would help bolster control efforts as part of integrated control programs in conjunction with other strategies like aerial shooting and baiting, as recommended by the NSW Natural Resource Commission.

The NSW Natural Resource Commissions (NRC) 2024 Invasive Species Management Review stated that 'recreational hunting by itself does not result in effective pest management'

In conclusion I firmly believe this bill should be rejected and the concept of a hunting authority abandoned. I spend a lot of time outdoors and have no desire to come across hunters and it seems this bill would make it more likely that I would come across them.