

To: The House of Representatives Standing C'tee on Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry.

I wish to make comment.

There is a need to be consistent with definitions of 'classes' of species esp. "pest" and "nuisance". The majority of species in these classes are introduced or exotic and have gone feral. However there are many native species which have gained pest status either permanently (eg wombats in some parts of Victoria) but with open hunting seasons it is rare for any species to get uncontrolled hunting on it. Victoria has a permit season which allows the land holder or his agent to take a given number of species.

The Victorian system has been long running, adaptable and has developed over a long period of time. It should be used as a benchmark for for the control of pest species. A managed game species or controlled pest species can, in many circumstances, become licenced to hunt.

In New Zealand and Tasmania introduced/exotic species, which have at some time become pest or nuisance species, are managed as game species for licenced hunting.

Robert Timms