



Deerstalkers Club,
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia
(Vic) Ltd,
18th September 2006

Committee Secretary
Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia
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Inquiry into Australia's national parks, conservation reserves and marine protected areas

Dear Sir/Madam,

This club has only recently become aware of the above enquiry, and although very late we make the following brief submission as the report is not due till November.

In support of other submissions, we express our concern at ongoing management issues – only some of which relate to budgeting resources. But our main concern is about limiting public access, particularly for hunting.

It seems that management plans are drafted from a template (which in itself may be good management to ensure all issues are addressed), that provides against this legitimate activity. Therefore the easy action is to not question the applicability of this part of the template to the particular location, but to prohibit hunting.

We can understand that there are many areas where hunting is not appropriate, such as scientific reference zones, or public proximity/safety and disturbance issues but there are many areas where there is available hunting that are prohibited. Seemingly this is due to ideological constraints and we submit that as custodians of a public resource the administrative authority is not entitled to hold or act upon such ideology.

Hunting is a true wilderness activity with low environmental impact (unless as part of pest control management), that has character building and ethical value. It is compatible with humane animal considerations and public safety. There should be more opportunities available in selected National Parks.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Wynn
President

CODE OF ETHICS

All members of the Deerstalkers' Club are required to:

- 1. Hunt with due restraint and in accordance with the highest ideals of good sportsmanship.**
- 2. Obey the rules of safe gun handling and courteously but firmly insist that other members of their party do the same.**
- 3. Acquire those marksmanship and hunting skills which will ensure clean humane kills; avoid crippling game and make every endeavour to recover wounded game.**
- 4. Respect their hunting companions, the land, the wildlife and through this maintain self respect.**
- 5. Conduct their hunting without greed or selfishness and take only what game can be used without waste. Recover all usable game meat.**
- 6. Not sell antlers or venison from wild deer.**
- 7. Observe all game laws.**
- 8. Support conservation efforts in the interests of good hunting for future generations.**
- 9. Pass on to younger hunters the attitudes and skills essential for ethical hunting.**
- 10. Avoid unnecessary destruction of plant life in the field or forest and leave things in good order for those who follow.**
- 11. Not spotlight deer or shoot from any mechanically powered vehicle, boat or aircraft.**
- 12. Not course any species of deer with dogs.**
- 13. Use only a calibre which will facilitate clean, humane kills on deer under the prevailing conditions and can be guided by the following as minimum calibres: SAMBAR/RED DEER .270 with 150 gr. Bullet. OTHER SPECIES .243 with 100 gr. Bullet. The club does not recommend a rifle smaller than 30'06 for Sambar.**
- 14. Treat the property of others with respect and work to bring about a better understanding between hunters and people who control land (Farmers, Public Authorities etc.)**

NOTE; The Code of Ethics is part of the S.S.A.A. Deer Stalkers Club Constitution.