

I would like consideration to be made to encouraging hunting by general public who hold licensed firearms as a pest control management strategy for feral cats. In countries like America where it is actively encouraged implementing conservation strategies are highly successful. Hunting when encouraged creates economic stimulus to regional areas, encourages local tourism in these infrequently visited areas and further encourages the relationship between the environment and families. It promotes a healthy respect for fauna and raises awareness of introduced pests and their destructive impact on the native populations of threatened species.

Hunting is demonised and misunderstood like law abiding firearms owners but as seen throughout the world they are key to successful conservation and environmental management. A logical, unemotional response is required to ensure the future protection of native animal populations and ecosystems.

Contracted culls are expensive although may have their part to play but hunting is paid for by the individual and is a recreational travel adventure that promotes human bonds and family relationships. Poisoning and baiting is too indiscriminate and may harm native ecosystems or animals.

As a young female professional working in the healthcare industry living on the Gold Coast I ask that you consider my suggestion and remember that those who support it come from all walks of life. I believe hunting is key to the future of environmental conservation in Australia and its promotion key to any hope of controlling the devastating effects of introduces species like feral cats.