

Hon. Thomas George
55 Carrington St
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We, the appended signators, have the following questions regarding the bill to allow shooters into National Parks (specifically Nightcap National Park):-

1. If this bill is truly for conservation....

- a) Exactly HOW they will determine when there are no more ferals left?
- b) Will they be looking for that goal and then shut down the program or just let them keep hunting forever?
- c) Who will be monitoring what is being killed to make sure protected animals are not killed and that feral animals are killed humanely and not left injured?
- d) Will the dead animals be left there on the ground to rot or will they be buried or will they be carried out by the hunters to be fed to their dogs?

In the first case, leaving the animals to rot on the ground will cause disease to flourish. Burying them will be difficult if the ground is hard and it is unlikely the shooters will be carrying shovels and picks. Carrying bodies out will also be problematic depending on the weight of the animal. Has this problem been thought through?

2. If this bill is not truly about conservation and is simply for shooters to have fun and for NSW to get income from licensing:-

- a) How can it be assured that visitors to national parks will not be shot accidentally?
- b) What about the negative impact on tourism, a \$35 billion industry, due to tourists fear of being hit by flying bullets in state forests and national parks?
- c) Who will bear the cost of the aftermath of bushfires due to gun sparks?
- d) If World Heritage National Parks are subject to hunting, we could lose World Heritage status as a result of hunters littering, pollution from lead bullets, loss of biodiversity, trampling of flora and introduction of feral weed seeds. Loss of World Heritage status means further loss of income from tourism.
- e) What about the growing tide of international tourists who refuse to visit Australia because of the appalling treatment given to our wildlife resulting in extinctions?
(www.destinationaustralia-nothanks.com)

3. How can this bill be about conservation when NSW wildlife no longer have anywhere safe to live? Even if native animals were not being shot deliberately, whizzing bullets kill.

4. It has been proved that the best way to eliminate feral animals is to hire professional shooters, as feral animals are regularly put in parks and forests specifically as target practice for hunters (who in fact caused the problem in the first place!). Why isn't this approach being adopted?

