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2nd January, 2014

Agricultural, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
Brisbane Qld 4000

By Email to: arec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Committee Members,

Submission in relation to the Biosecurity Bill 2013

The Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Qld) Inc wishes to raise some concerns in relation to the proposed Biosecurity Bill 2013.

While the intent of the Bill appears to be perfectly valid and reasonable, there are vagaries that could have serious, unintended, negative consequences on otherwise perfectly legitimate activities both now and in the future.

These activities include:

- Legitimate hunting
- Feral Animal Control
- Scientific research and monitoring activities involving some animals
- Commercial harvesting of some animals
- Commercial Safari activities and associated industries

The sections of the Bill of concern in this area are:

21. What is restricted matter

(1) Restricted matter is biosecurity matter that, for the time being, is established as restricted matter under chapter 2.

38. Basic restricted matter declaration provision

1. *Biosecurity matter mentioned in schedule 2 is restricted matter.*

[1]

43. Distributing or disposing of category 3 restricted matter

(1) A person who has category 3 restricted matter in the person's possession or under the person's control must not distribute or dispose of the restricted matter unless the distribution or disposal is—

(a) performed in the way prescribed under a regulation; or

(b) authorised under a restricted matter permit; or

(c) performed by an authorised officer in the performance of the authorised officer's functions under this Act.

Maximum penalty—500 penalty units.

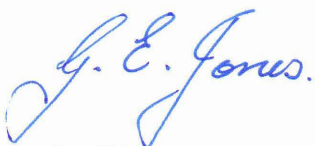
These Sections refer to both live and dead animals and "possibly" parts of an animal and while **SECTION 43** refers the administration of "*distribution or disposal*" to the regulations, we are concerned that a potential ad hoc approach of regulation is inadequate to protect the viability of the legitimate activities noted without unwarranted or unnecessary bureaucratic impost.

The cultural, scientific and commercial value of the affected activities are well documented and should not be understated, and while Biosecurity is everyone's business and responsibility it can and should be balanced with the needs of the whole community.

We submit that further consideration and clarification of this issue (Restricted Matter - distribution or disposal) is essential in relation to the noted activities and that these activities are worthy of recognition and inclusion within the Act to ensure consistency of interpretation. Regulation can best administer the potential of a biosecurity event or threat.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Bill and trust that our submission meets with your approval.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Jones
President
SSAA (Qld) Inc

