



Speech by

Hon. RUSSELL COOPER

MEMBER FOR CROWS NEST

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KANGAROO SHOOTERS

Hon. T. R. COOPER (Crows Nest—NPA) (10.10 a.m.): First we had the dingo issue, when graziers were accused of rorting the \$10 dingo bounty by breeding and selling their own pups for profit. Now we have some 2,200 roo shooters, quaintly called "field harvesters", being required to undergo a compulsory accreditation course costing them some \$250 to \$300 each. This course will include marksmanship, welfare and even literacy and numeracy tests. It will be of one and a half day's duration. The tyranny of distance will exacerbate the cost and inconvenience for people who already know how to shoot better than any of the instructors likely to be carrying out the accreditation program.

Apparently legislation is already embedded that makes training compulsory, but it has not been acted on previously—probably because there was no accredited course. However, it now seems that this is likely to change. The QLMA has had a meat hygiene and safety course for some time for shooters and box operators, and we have no complaint about that. However, following a joint meeting with the QLMA and the QPWS, TAFE was asked to put together an accreditation course for shooters. The QLMA and the QPWS were keen to have this latest course but could not fund it. Therefore, it was assumed that shooters could fund it to the tune of \$250 to \$300 each. Shooters cannot afford either that amount or the costs of travel and accommodation or the refresher courses to be held every three years. It was a five-year licence. It is now a three-year licence, and they have to do a refresher course; otherwise they will not get any tags. Also, the 1,200 box operators will be required to do an extra half-day course at a cost of \$100 to \$150 each.

Here we go again. We are seeing another Labor Government at its best. It cannot help but make life as difficult as it possibly can, this time for shooters who have excelled in their profession for years. The shooters have enough problems making a dollar today as it is, and now they are being asked to do something that is absolutely stupid. This course and the cost it imposes is unnecessary. We are calling on both Ministers to ensure that this silly course does not proceed.
