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Dear Review Panel

My name is David Rowlands. I am the Sole Director of Procoll Solutions, a licenced contract culling organisation which primarily harvests kangaroos and deer for the meat industry and provides pest eradication services for other nuisance animals such as foxes and rabbits.

My business has been operating for 13 years from the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne.

I am a holder of several professional licenses and authorities to conduct this business including a firearms license, a harvesting license, a certificate of humane destruction, and a silencer a license.

I have also invested heavily in "*state -of -the art*" high technology equipment to safely and humanely kill invasive animals such as advanced thermal imaging night vision equipment (like seen on the movies), special guns and ammunition (low noise, controlled penetration, high precision), drones, silencers and other specialist "humane" hunting, killing and harvesting equipment.

In addition to myself, I typically employ three or four additional contract hunters.

The specialty of my business is the control of invasive species.

A large proportion of my business is culling kangaroos either under a harvest system or an authority to control wildlife.

A Lawful Business

Despite not having any criminal record and priding myself on the lawful conduct of my business I have become the subject of personal attack, criticism, ridicule and in recent times death threats as a result of conducting my business lawfully.

Sadly, some of those people who attacked me are highly educated and hold privileged positions of influence which veils their true motivation and activist activities as animal rights people who conduct themselves as if achieving their objective does not require compliance with the law or respect for other people who are conducting a lawful business. I am disappointed that they conduct themselves this way.

On the other hand, I am also aware of a group of 'hunters' who likewise hold extreme views and seek to promote their rights to firearms and shooting to the exclusion of other people's lawful rights.

My Clients

I am a professional invasive species hunter. I have the necessary licenses to perform such activities lawfully and it my clients include many Councils, farmers, golf clubs and other substantial land holders.

First Nation

I do not take pleasure in performing my job, but I see its use as a means of controlling the population of animals that is out of balance with nature.

I am of first nation origin and am sensitive to the environment and its management. I have been brought up to respect and be in tune with the environment. I am aware that native dingos have been used by first nation people as domesticated pets but so far as I am aware animals such as kangaroos have always been used by first nation's people as a source of food and a source of skins for both shelter and ground covering.

Cruelty and Relocation of Animals

Over many years I have observed the attempts to relocate animals. In all instances in which I have been involved to attempt to relocate the animals have resulted in cruelty to the animal sought to be relocated. I have observed kangaroos suffering cardiomyopathy. I have observed the consequences of relocation of kangaroos including fatal wounds to competing males and an apparent increase in the number of kangaroos being hit by cars as the kangaroos seek to return to the place they were located from.

Diseases

Native animals carry a range of diseases. Thankfully, as a first nations person, I appear less prone to contracting them. However, I am aware of diseases such as Q-fever, brucellosis, and tuberculosis, being carried by native animals. I do not think people are aware of the dangers of handling native animals with these diseases.

Business Opportunities

I am concerned that organizations are proposing changes to the control of wildlife which will in substance enhance their own businesses or the businesses of individuals within those organizations. In particular, the elevation of 'relocation' as an option with a population numbers are very high of animals such as kangaroos, is very labour intensive and costly, and in my experience entirely disregards the cruelty that it imposes upon animal.

The review committee is urged to consider the financial and personal gratification motivation of people who appear before it for options which may appear persuasive on their face but in substance of nothing short of cruel and disregarding of the welfare of animals.

I realize that and acknowledge that I am in business too, but the animals I kill are used from meat and for their products. My job is very much like the farmer, I am harvesting animals for use, not playing with their welfare to achieve personal accolades. I am genuinely and extremely concerned that relocation of native animals is necessarily and unavoidably inherently cruel. If I had not seen the results of this cruelty, I would not feel so strongly about this.

Issues about the proper management of the environment and how populations of animals get out of balance, are far more important than criticizing people such as myself whose job it is to harvest these animals and to use them as a form of food in a primary production cycle.

Harvest System

Without any doubt my preference for the control of managing invasive systems is via a harvest system where the animals which are killed are used for food and sometimes for their skins. In my

mind the harvesting of invasive species is a vastly superior outcome than merely killing animals and leaving them where they have been shot.

When conducting my culling operations, I adhere to the code of practice that applies to kangaroos. This means that in practice young animals and female with young at foot are not culled.

It is my experience, and it is my preference, that the objective of culling is to manage the population of native animals and not to exterminate them. Native animals have a place in the environment it is just that in some contexts their numbers far out why the ability of the land to sustain them. This causes obvious land use problems whether it be through competition for farmland, damage and competition to other uses such as farms, schools, parks and golf clubs, or the threat that the animals pose to humans and each other where their numbers become unbalanced.

Deer

Deer cause extensive damage to the environment. I have observed and continue to observe the extensive damage that they do to bushland and the way in which they foul waterways.

In my experience I have no doubt at all that as an introduced species they are entirely without merit in the environment and should be hunted to extinction in the Australian environment. Deers in the urban and urban fringe environment pose an especially great risk to people and themselves.

I am often required to attend incidents by the Police to attend to injured deer that have been hit by vehicles or that have inadvertently been injured or are in the process of being injured when cornered in urban and semi urban environments.

I know of no instance where deer have established a peaceful coexistence with humans and the environment. From my perspective of the deer merely destroy the environment and pose a risk to humans without any benefit, save as to their meat and other products once killed.

Conclusions

I urge the review committee to:

- a. Acknowledge that culling has a place in the humane control of the number of animals which are out of balance with their environment.
- b. Empower people such as myself too lawfully and humanely kill animals in such a way that re-establishes, or at least sustainably manages, the population of animals in the environment or environments (all living things) that are sought to be protected.
- c. Provide a framework of protection for people like myself, from individuals who flaunt the law and threaten to hurt, kill or otherwise damage people like me individually, our families or our businesses when we are doing nothing more, nor nothing less, than going to work and doing our job professionally.
- d. Entrench known non-cruel mechanisms for culling animals.
- e. Create criteria for what is "cruel" so that well-meaning people do not cruelly hurt animals while relocating them or as a result of creating imbalances in the environments into which they are introduced that are also cruel.

Thank you for considering my submission.

David Rowlands