



Branches in all States and Territories  
130,000 members Australia wide

## Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Inc.)

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Rowan Ramsey  
Federal Member for Grey  
PO Box 296  
PORT PIRIE SA 5540

Monday, October 18, 2010

Dear Rowan,

I write to you today on behalf of the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc (SSAA National) in response to a media report on *ABC News* (27/9/2010) where you discussed creating tourism opportunities as a way to move indigenous communities away from a welfare culture.

The media report stated that you had spoken to leaders of the APY Lands Council and they are now thinking about tourism as an opportunity to create employment within their communities.

Over the past year, I have fielded many calls and emails from members in regards to accessing property to help cull over abundant and damaging feral camel. As you are probably aware, some of the areas within our wonderful country that have high densities of these feral animals are found within your electorate, especially within APY Lands.

We would like to make a suggestion that the APY Lands Council should seriously consider utilising this pest as a resource. The majority of camel control under the Australian Feral Camel Management Project will be undertaken by helicopter culling outside the control of the APY Lands Council. We believe that there should still be opportunity for the local community to create jobs and income on the back of guided hunting tours and permits to access these feral animals on APY Lands.

From overseas experience, it can be seen that regulated and managed hunting does provide jobs and income to local communities. The proceedings of the *World Symposium on the Ecologic and Economic Benefits of Hunting* (2009) provide many examples illustrating the social, economic and environmental benefits (See <http://www.wfsa.net/publications.html>).

Guided feral water buffalo hunting in the Northern Territory is an example closer to home, where income and jobs are generated within the local community from a feral animal.

We understand that there are many cultural considerations that need to be addressed in such a proposal. In saying that, we believe by having guided hunting tours under the control and direction of the APY Lands Council, any chance of negative impact to areas of cultural significance would be overcome. Hunting permits or hunting access fees could also be granted and received from unguided visitors in specified areas only. This would introduce another stream of income into the community.

We would be happy to assist in the design and setup of a pilot program.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Godson  
Special Project Officer - Pest and Wildlife Management  
Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia Inc