



## The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

C10/15549

Mr Matthew Godson  
Sporting Shooters Association of Australia Inc  
PO Box 2520  
UNLEY SA 5061

19 NOV 2010

Dear Mr Godson

I refer to your letter of 21 July 2010 to the former Minister for Environment Protection, Heritage and the Arts, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, seeking the Australian Government's position on the role that hunting plays in regard to native and introduced wildlife management in Australia. As I am now Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, your letter has been passed to me for reply. I regret the delay in responding.

The primary responsibility for wildlife management, including introduced species, lies with state and territory governments. The Australian Government becomes involved through the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* when specimens are to be exported, an activity occurs on Commonwealth land or where there is a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance, such as nationally listed threatened species.

The Australian Government acknowledges that recreational hunting can be a cost-effective way of maintaining low populations of pest animals in some situations. The Government also acknowledges the involvement of many recreational hunters in conservation-based projects.

It is important to ensure hunting methods are humane and don't actually hinder pest control objectives by dispersing pest animals. Coordinated broad-scale baiting, aerial shooting, trapping and mustering programs are also considered to be effective options.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Tony Burke