



The Hon. John Tingle, M.L.C.
Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Tel. (02) 9230 2111

NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF JOHN TINGLE MLC

28.06.02

GAME BILL PASSED

The Game Bill 2002 passed all stages in the Upper House in the early hours of this morning.

The Game Bill, as you know, enshrines hunting as a respectable, Government-backed pastime; acknowledges its vital role as a conservation resource, against feral animals, and most of all, sets up the Game Council, as a statutory authority, to organise hunting.

The Game Council has representatives of shooting/hunting organisations such as the Federation of Hunting Clubs, SSAA, etc. in the majority; and one of its functions will be to organise access to public lands previously closed to hunters. It will issue an *optional* special Game Licence for this purpose.

The Game Bill is an initiative of the Shooters Party, which I first suggested to the State Government in 1995. The tortuous and detailed negotiation to frame the Bill was done by Robert Brown, committee member of the Shooters Party, and Chairman of the Federation of Hunting Clubs, during three years of long meetings with representatives of the Premier's Office, and the Offices of the Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Environment.

The Bill is modelled on the successful New Zealand Fishing and Game Act and opens a new era for hunters in New South Wales. This is ground-breaking legislation, whose impact and importance is demonstrated by the fact that it has enraged Animal Lib and Green groups.

The Bill passed through the lower house earlier this year; and was introduced into the Upper House, where I sit, at 4.20 p.m. yesterday afternoon (Thursday, June 27). The anti's fought it every inch of the way, taking the opportunity to portray me as some kind of nefarious monster for – as they put it – trying to promote a blood bath by savage hunters. It was a nasty, waspish, personal attack, fairly typical of the tactics of some of these people. One of their amendments – defeated like the others – was to rename it The Blood Sports Bill.

Of more than 200 attempted amendments, only a few good ones got through. The Bill was finally passed at 5.18 a.m. this morning, Friday (28), thirteen long hours after it started; after the anti's tried to defeat it by dividing on the final vote, but they were defeated 27-4.

Robert Brown experienced his first overnight marathon sitting, remaining on the advisors' benches, and supporting me in the debate and the amendments. Hunters owe him!

A victory for legitimate hunters, and a defeat for the people so opposed to us!

John Tingle MLC
the Shooters Party
Parliament House, Sydney