

COALITION OF ANIMAL PROTECTORS

PRESS RELEASE

MAN FACES COURT FOR NOTICING SECRET SHOOTING

An elderly kangaroo cull protestor will face court tomorrow (9 July 2015).

The man was not on a reserve, nor on any closed land at the time of his arrest. He is alleged to have used a whistle to alert the shooters, who had been shooting around him, to his presence in the Macarthur horse paddocks. The police construed this as “obstructing a territory public officer”.

His fellow protestors believe that the man was targeted for arrest because he had caught the government’s contract shooters, supported by government rangers, shooting on the Macarthur horse paddocks, contrary to the conditions of the TAMS license.

Spokesperson, Robyn Soxsmith explains, “As far as the public are knew, the government had no license to shoot on the horse paddocks. This area was not included in the original license the government made public prior to the start of the cull in April, and there was no appropriate signage in place to indicate to the public that shooting was taking place in the area.”

Over the month or so prior to his arrest, the man had contacted the police on several occasions, first when his car was vandalised while he was on protest watch outside the Wanniasa Hills Reserve, again when he found the remains of a detonated explosive device in the nearby horse paddocks, and again when he noticed the apparently illegal shooting in the horse paddocks.

Shortly before his arrest, he had been trying to persuade the ranger who was present on the horse paddocks during the shooting to do something about a wounded kangaroo which he could hear crying in pain.

“We believe he was arrested because he had caught the government out in a very murky business: at worst shooting where they had no right to be shooting, at best shooting in a public place without warning the public,” Ms Soxsmith said.

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