



SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

What We Believe

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party strongly supports safeguarding our natural environment. After all, farming, hunting, and fishing all require one thing to survive: a healthy and sustainable environment.

Our environment faces many threats and requires adaptive management to achieve sustainability for future generations. Rather than offer empty slogans and promises, we believe environmental laws should be framed for the greater good, not appeasing minority city based extreme green viewpoints.

The best way to do this is not by 'locking it away' and restricting access in the hope of preservation, but to actively manage our landscape and enhance biodiversity. Communities are an essential part of this model, and without active community support and participation all conservation efforts will fail. An adaptive, evidence-based solution to biodiversity and biosecurity risks is appropriate. Farmers, hunters and fishers are a part of this solution as they are well positioned to provide on-the-ground feedback and data.

Our Action Plan:

1. Require all decisions taken by natural resource managers, including NSW Government Departments, to give a balanced consideration to environmental, social and economic issues during the decision-making process.
2. Implement an active adaptive management system to replace the 'lock-it-up-and-leave-it' approach of the past. Biodiversity conservation in NSW requires a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) reserve system.
3. Reinstate and maintain fire trails on all public lands as well as controlled burning is a viable option to restore Native Forest health and mitigate risk of future uncontrolled wild fires.
4. Ensure environmental water flows are not set without consideration of the impacts on regional communities and fish stocks.
5. Introduce volunteer conservation hunting to control vertebrate pests on all NSW public lands.
6. Reject the use of the precautionary principle as it offers no viable reasoning or scientific rationalism in the conservation of the environment.
7. Allow National Parks to be sustainably managed and encourage recreational use as originally envisaged under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967*.
8. We support a new model whereby all forests, including those in National Parks, are managed by a single, state-based, natural resources agency that encourages active managements and sustainable utilisation.
9. Management of woody weeds to maintain biological diversity.
10. Protection and better management of estuaries as multi-use environments through a unitary management approached across all agencies.