



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT FEDERAL POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party strongly supports safeguarding our natural environment.

All Australians want clean air, clean water, and diverse and healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

We believe in a practical, evidence-based and active management approach to protect and enhance our unique natural environment.

We believe environmental laws should be more balanced and not solely focussed on appeasing minority city based extreme green viewpoints that pay no heed to the failed lock it up and leave it policies of the past.

The best way to do this is to change the mentality of restricting access in the hope of preservation, but to actively manage our landscape and enhance biodiversity, with an eye to how indigenous Australians managed the land for over 50,000 years.

Sustainable use should be a core tenant in managing our environment. Where it is sustainable, we should utilise our abundant natural resources to support industries such as forestry, fishing and hunting.

Environmental management and conservation are not emotions. An adaptive, evidence-based approach to environmental management is essential. Local communities know their environment best and must have a central role in developing management strategies for their regions.

Rural and regional Australians including farmers, hunters and anglers are part of this solution as they are well positioned to provide local knowledge, practical solutions and feedback.

After all, farming, fishing and hunting all require one thing to survive: a healthy and sustainable environment.



OUR ACTION PLAN

1. Require all decisions taken by Government natural resource managers and development assessments, to meet a test that properly balances environmental, social and economic needs during the decision-making process.
2. Implement an active and adaptive management approach that places sustainable use at its core to replace the 'lock it up and leave it' approach.
3. Allow for the sustainable management of our remarkable National Park estate and encourage its recreational use, as originally enshrined in law.
4. Promote individual and community conservation programs through increased funding and education without locking out recreational users.
5. Review the national approach to inland water management in accordance with our water policy.
6. Promote voluntary farm-based conservation programs funded by the Commonwealth.
7. Allow investment in environmental improvement projects on private lands to be tax deductible.
8. Review marine protected areas based on sound nonpolitical scientific evidence, not political motivation, or green bureaucracy.
9. Develop and properly resource coordinated efforts between private and public land managers, including recreational groups, to control invasive plants and animals across all land tenures.
10. Introduce volunteer conservation hunting to control vertebrate pests on suitable public lands.



OUR ACTION PLAN - con.

11. Reinstate and maintain fire trails on public lands as well as controlled burning as a viable option to restore native forest health and mitigate risk of future uncontrolled wildfires.
12. Reject the use of the precautionary principle as it offers no practical way to sustainably utilise and conserve our environment. It has become synonymous with a do-nothing approach.