



Recreational Access Policy

SFF Tasmania believes that the great outdoors is meant to be enjoyed by all and will fight for your freedom to use public land and waterways for recreational activities. For too long, the governments have kowtowed to green lobbying groups, locking up vast tracts of wilderness, public land and waterways in a failed bid of pushing preservation over sustainable use of natural resources. Public land and waterways, and their natural resources, should be held in trust for the people. No one group or individual should own or be able to limit access to public lands and waterways. All Tasmanians should be freely able to enjoy public land and waterways to pursue a broad and diverse range of recreational activities and outdoor pursuits.

SFF Tasmania believes that the sustainable use of our natural resources has always been a part of the Tasmanian way of life. For as long as humans have inhabited the land, they have hunted, fished, and taken wildlife to sustain themselves and their cultures, as well as spending time in the outdoors pursuing a wide range of recreational pursuits.

Only recently has the 'right' to hunt, fish and forage been drawn into question by progressively restrictive government policies and laws. Anti-hunting and animal rights organisations would lead the public to believe that hunting, fishing and taking wildlife are privileges subject to social pressures and prevailing public sentiments rather than the inherent right to provide food for one's self and family. To establish in perpetuity what has been assumed for eons, we must enshrine in law the right for citizens to hunt, fish and take wildlife, and to continue a consumptive, responsible and sustainable use of natural wildlife resources. It is part of our natural world, and long part of our traditions and cultures.

Australia's track record of protecting such rights, especially those that emphasise communion with the countryside, the bush, wildlife and the consumptive use of their resources, is constantly declining, and the continual growth of urban ideologies and beliefs threatens the cultures and traditions many of us have taken for granted.

In line with our support for regional and rural communities, we also believe that one of the most effective ways to grow the economies in these communities is through recreational tourism. Access needs to be opened for people to visit and spend time in rural and regional areas, including wilderness areas, national parks and state forests, and to contribute to regional economies.

If elected, SFF Tasmania will use their vote in parliament to:

- Ensure Tasmanians have free and unimpeded access to public land and can use this land to enjoy a wide and diverse range of recreational activities.
- Ensure Tasmanians can continue to hunt, fish and forage for wildlife and wild foods.

SHOOTERS FISHERS and FARMERS Tasmania



- Create a foundational principle of beneficial use of natural resources that requires (where appropriate) that wildlife resources will not be wasted.
- Support the creation of hunter education programs that foster safe and ethical hunting practices.
- Push for the removal of current bans to bowhunting of introduced and invasive species.
- Recommend that hunting and fishing be considered the preferred means of managing wildlife rather than unproven contraception schemes and unwarranted use of government contract shooters and the use of toxic poisons. We will also recommend that any government culling and control programs should attempt to utilise the harvested animals to the fullest extent.
- Establish a strong regulatory framework that ensures proper enforcement of rules, regulations, seasons and limits around hunting and fishing, and which includes mandatory fines and/or sentencing for illegal killing and taking of wildlife, and/or cruelty to animals.
- Push for traditional hunting methods to be allowed including archery and hunting with dogs.
- Investigate the economic, social and environmental contributions that hunting and fishing brings to Tasmania and explore the advancement of a wide range of recreational tourism opportunities including hunting and fishing.
- Recommend funding to assist, encourage and facilitate youth to take part in outdoor recreational activities.
- Improve access within National Parks and State Forests for four wheel driving, camping, mountain biking, motorbiking and ATVing and other recreational activities.
- Improve facilities in National Parks and State Forests including developing more free or low-cost camping facilities
- Stop the unreasonable closure of tracks and parks, and support the reopening of those closed without valid reason.
- Recommend more free, low-cost camping and tourism facilities be developed around the state.
- Recommend a food bank program where recreational hunters and fishers can donate meat to those less fortunate.