



Position Statement and Action Plan on:
Society and Service Delivery





What we believe

The Shooters and Fishers Party believes that centralised, city-based Government decision making has led to poor outcomes for regional and rural NSW for far too long.

Governments that pander to inner-urban lobby groups often do so at the expense of rural and regional economies. Regional NSW then loses productivity and essential community services such as health, education, banking and public transport all suffer.

The Shooters and Fishers Party believes regional and rural economic decline in NSW must be urgently addressed and reversed through a concerted policy of increased rural and regional development.

The Shooters and Fishers Party also believes that this city-centric bias has created a society detached from real life. Outdoor activities and normal risk-taking as part of the normal growing up experience of childhood, are now largely banned. Today's young people are increasingly over-protected, and time in the outdoors in contact with nature is rapidly diminishing and actively discouraged. The unique benefits of playing outside promote not just physical, but also mental wellness, and also develops confidence, responsibility, discipline, and self-reliance¹.

Sadly New South Wales has become "The Nanny-state", where "Sydney knows best".

Shooters and Fishers Party

February 2011

Cover: The culture and heritage of hunting, fishing and rural life must be formally recognised and supported by Government

For further information about any aspect of this Position Statement write to the Shooters and Fishers Party
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ACTION PLAN

The Shooters and Fishers Party commits to:

- We will support moving away from centralised, city-based Government decision making to regional-inclusive decision making where regional stakeholders' views will be heard and taken into account. Ensuring that the cultural heritage of Hunting and Fishing are formally recognised and supported by NSW Government.
- Ensure the NSW Department of Education and Training recognise Shooting and Fishing as 'appropriate' cultural activities and sports for all public schools.
- Prioritise an expansion and upgrade of infrastructure including rural rail and TAFE networks.
- Re-assign the compliance and enforcement functions for animal welfare matters from charitable organisations to a relevant Government agency.
- Support Government actions and programs that will increase literacy rates amongst young people, especially indigenous citizens.
- We will respect the cultural activities of Hunting and Fishing by having them enshrined in NSW Law. We will propose a Bill that will recognise the fundamental importance of these activities to the well being of our society.
- We will oppose all government legislation that seeks to support the removal of the significant social advantages that cheap coal offers NSW.
- We will support a complete review of the Safe Injecting Room program currently being run in Kings Cross.
- We will propose a Bill to abolish Ethics classes in NSW public schools.
- We will support moves to remove the trial Homophobia education program being run in the NSW schools.
- We will move to review Department of Education procedures for staff acquisition and curriculum setting.



Society and Service Delivery

Everyone in NSW deserves a fair go from Government and equitable access to services whether they live in a major city or remote rural community. Government services, wherever possible, should be decentralised to provide economic stimulus and employment opportunity to regional NSW. To help understand the Shooters and Fishers Party's Action Plan on Society and Service Delivery the key elements are summarised below.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

The cultural beliefs of hunters and fishers are closely aligned with those of indigenous societies in regard to sustainable use of the natural environment.

The cultural beliefs of non-indigenous Australian hunters and fishers should be equally recognised in law in NSW.

Cultural Heritage

The existence of the Shooters and Fishers Party is testament to the strong culture of shooting and fishing in NSW.

The cultural heritage of the estimated 1 million fishers² and 184 thousand shooters³ in NSW (approx. 16 % of the NSW population) deserves to be formally recognised and supported by the NSW Government.

Energy

In coal, NSW has some of the most affordable and easily accessible energy producing resources in Australia.

This comparative economic advantage must be maintained without disadvantaging rural communities.

Industry and Infrastructure

The Shooters and Fishers Party abhors the rundown and neglected state of infrastructure and the loss of industrial competitiveness in NSW.

We call for an expansion and upgrade of rural water, rail, roads, Newcastle port infrastructure and TAFE networks to develop needed skills among NSW residents especially in regional NSW and encourage private investment in these same areas.



Education

The Shooters and Fishers Party calls for a return to compulsory sport and Physical Education in all NSW Schools.

We call for shooting and fishing to be recognised as 'appropriate' sports by the NSW Department of Education and Training in all NSW public schools.

Basic educational standards have barely stabilised as reflected against national assessments, and teachers do not have adequate disciplinary options available to them. Non-compliance with school behaviours, and non-attendance at a government accredited school need to be made offences which require reporting by school administrators, for action by the Government.

Health

We support increased attention to retaining nursing staff in the health system and attracting young people into this critical service sector, where infrastructure is under-utilised because of nursing shortages.

Drugs and Harm Minimisation

We believe legalisation of illicit drugs should not be supported. We will seek increased education and information about the harmful effects of drugs in education programs.

Hours of opening of licensed premises needs to be kept under active review, together with police powers to deal with offensive and violent behaviour.

The Shooters and Fishers Party believes that harm minimisation without compulsory rehabilitation is a failed strategy.

Animal Welfare

The Shooters and Fishers Party supports all reasonable efforts to improve animal welfare. Animal welfare policy in NSW has become distorted by animal rights ideology.

We believe compliance for animal welfare issues should be returned to accountable Government authorities.

Road Safety

The historical reliance on revenue from fines and the demerit points system has not markedly improved road amenity or efficiency. We are convinced that increased emphasis on personal responsibility is



needed, together with a review of penalty effectiveness in suspending licences.

We call for an immediate review of road safety in NSW, particularly the proliferation of speed zones.

Food Security; Food and Fuel Cost

We are concerned by the concentration of market power in the grocery and fuel sectors, two of the basics of family life.

The Shooters and Fishers Party calls for increased powers under the NSW fair trading laws to incorporate anti-trust provisions.

Youth

We commend and support youth initiatives that emphasise self reliance, self discipline and an understanding of obligations to family and society.

We have found that a healthy involvement with the natural world will engender these attributes in our youth.

Researchers have found that violent videos and games influence people. We believe this to be particularly so among young people. Increased restriction on this material is needed.

Illiteracy is high amongst NSW prisoners. We believe there is a direct connection, so we propose an increased effort on literacy programs, including as a rehabilitation activity in penal institutions.

Crime

The community expects truth in sentencing and mandatory minimum sentencing subject to adequate parole rules and policing.

Crimes involving use of a weapon should attract additional sentencing to be served consecutively, not concurrently.

Older Australians

Older Australians on a fixed income get a raw deal from Governments.

Current concessions available to older Australians in NSW need review and overhaul.



Rural Learner Drivers

The learner driving requirements present insurmountable obstacles for many young people in rural areas.

Accumulating the minimum 120 hours of supervised driving is especially challenging for students living away from home or undertaking studies at regional colleges and universities.

The Shooters and Fishers Party will institute a review of the mandatory requirements for rural learner drivers.

Fireworks

Celebrating key events with fireworks is a traditional Australian activity that has been taken away by overzealous bureaucrats of the 'Nanny State'.

Fireworks should be accessible by responsible citizens for use on appropriate sites, without undue red tape, licensing requirements and exorbitant fees.

What this means for you

The **Shooters and Fishers Party** commits to implementing a thorough review of the overly-centralised Government services in NSW.

We advocate that staffing levels of NSW Government agencies that primarily focus on regional service delivery are adjusted to reflect that regional focus. For example, for the last 3 years, over half of all staff of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) have been located in the Sydney metropolitan area, whereas most of the States' 800 plus National Parks that DECCW administers are in regional and rural areas⁴. No wonder that our National Parks cost NSW taxpayers over \$40 per hectare to "manage" compared to State Forests at around \$25 per hectare, and Crown Lands even less.

We commit to supporting expansion of programs that provide opportunities for young people to connect with nature and enhance their personal development.

Over the next four year Parliamentary term we will work tirelessly to ensure that rural and regional communities get a 'fair go' from NSW Government agencies.

SHOOTERS and FISHERS PARTY

Protect your freedoms & the future of outdoor sports



Supporting Documents

- ¹ Outdoor play linked to children's mental health. Sydney Morning Herald 8 October 2010.
<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/wellbeing/outdoor-play-linked-to-childrens-mental-health-20101008-16b4d.html>
- ² New South Wales Parliament. Legislative Council. Select Committee on Recreational Fishing.
Recreational Fishing in New South Wales (Final Report) December 2010.
<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/CA6BAB0C1FC14E7ECA2577F5000239AD>
- ³ Firearms Registry, NSW Police. Reply to request for number of licensed shooters in NSW, 19 January 2011.
- ⁴ Department of Environment , Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW). Annual Report 2009-2010.
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/whoweare/deccwar10.htm>