



KOALA SEPP POLICY



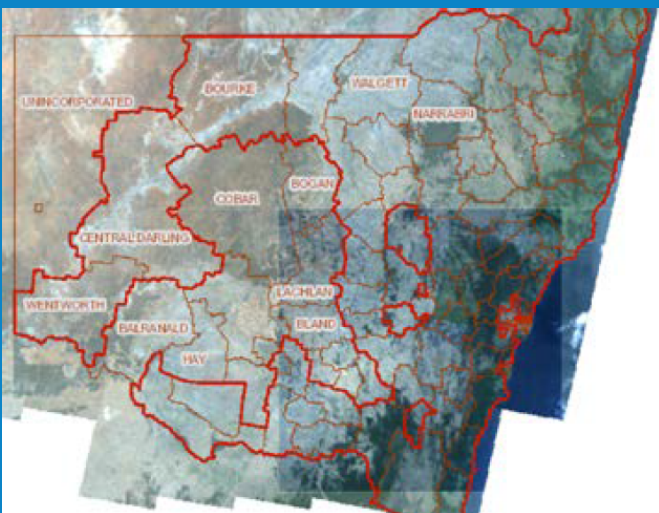
WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party are strong advocates for practical, evidence based environmental protection laws in NSW.

Unfortunately, the green dominated NSW Liberal-National Government attempted in 2021 to introduce new laws that did not follow these principles, it gave overarching power to a planning instrument that could not be reviewed, or changed by NSW parliament, it overruled key legislative protections for farm forestry and private property rights in NSW. It was our swift proactive action that saw this quickly removed, however its has returned in another form and the concessions to farmers and forestry workers through an updating of the Private Native Forestry codes does not fix bad policy.

The State Environmental Planning Policy – Koala Habitat Protection, is lauded as a Koala protection measure but in reality, it is just another backdoor attempt to stop developments like farming and forestry in NSW.

These laws are far reaching and devastating to regional NSW. The new laws apply to the vast majority of NSW. Any development that exceed 1 hectare (100m x 100m) in the area shown in the figure below will need to comply.





WHAT WE BELIEVE

The State Government continually puts a handbrake on any economic development on regional and rural private land and has handed over veto powers for projects to local Councils through the ability to arbitrarily declare without evidence special zones such as e-zones and koala protection zones.

These laws are devastating regional communities that are dying from overregulation and a lack of investment.

These laws introduce additional green tape and cost burdens – for both councils and proponents of developments.

Councils are required to either develop a Koala Plan of Management for their Local Government Area (LGA) or require the proponent of a development to bear the costs of conducting even further expensive environmental studies.

Anyone who seeks approval for a development will have to comply with the Koala Plan of Management that the Council develops. While a guideline exists for the preparation of these Plans, the council could introduce any form or strict requirement.

The Plan of Management will be used by extreme green Councils to prevent developments that they don't like. They will stop farming, forestry or housing developments, preventing regional jobs and economic opportunities.

Where a Council has not prepared a Koala Plan of Management, the new laws prevent that council from approving any development unless the proponent has engaged one of a limited number of expensive environmental consultants to certify that the land doesn't include any of the dozens of common species of trees listed in the guideline including:



WHAT WE BELIEVE

- o Most gums such as spotted, blue, grey, red, flooded, etc
- o Iron barks
- o She-oaks
- o Cypress pines and many more

The Government has stolen landowners' rights, including the right to farm, which will see property values plummet and new developments rejected.

These new laws have one aim – to stop any tree being cleared in NSW regardless of the potential for Koalas to be harmed.

The extreme green agenda of the NSW Government must be called out for what it is – anti-development, anti-jobs, anti-regional NSW and antifarming and agriculture.



OUR ACTION PLAN

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers will work to stop these laws. We will work to have these laws rescinded in full.

We will call on the Government to abandon these laws, to recognise the impacts that they will have on regional NSW and halt their progress immediately.

If the NSW Government is intent on keeping these absurd laws, we will call on them to compensate the NSW citizens whose rights and assets have been impinged and in fact stolen. This includes project proponents whose projects are prevented from proceeding and landowners who cannot develop their land because of these laws.

Where a landowner has been prevented from developing their land by these new laws, the Government must allow that landowner to sell their property to the Government, at the market value prior to the impacts of these laws and allow them to lease it back at a minimal rate and continue their occupancy of the land, whether for farming or other legal occupancy.

Land owners or occupiers must be fully compensated for their loss of land rights.