



SPEARFISHING POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Protect Public Access. Support Sustainable Spearfishing.

The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party recognise spearfishing as one of Australia's oldest, most selective and sustainable forms of fishing.

Modern spearfishing in Australia has deep roots dating back to the post-war period, when returned servicemen and coastal communities established some of the country's first spearfishing clubs and associations.

Spearfishers take one fish at a time, by hand, with direct visual identification. There is no bycatch.

Spearfishing is highly selective, sustainable and deeply connected to marine conservation.

Our Party supports

- public access to coastal waters and marine environments
- sustainable recreational fishing and spearfishing
- evidence-based fisheries management
- science-driven marine conservation
- the rights of Australians to access and enjoy public waterways

We oppose unnecessary marine park lockouts, excessive restrictions, and activist-driven policies that exclude ordinary Australians from public waterways.

Marine conservation must be practical, balanced and based on evidence, not ideology.



OUR ACTION PLAN

- Formally recognise spearfishing in NSW fisheries legislation as a highly selective, sustainable and environmentally responsible method of fishing with minimal bycatch and low environmental impact.
- Protect the birthplace of spearfishing in Australia by formally recognising and safeguarding historic spearfishing locations from future lockouts, excessive restrictions and anti-access campaigns.
- Legislate mandatory public access impact testing before any new marine park restriction, sanctuary zone or coastal closure can be approved affecting spearfishing access.
- Launch an independent review of existing marine park lockouts and exclusion zones to identify historic spearfishing areas that can be safely reopened under practical, science-based management.
- Force Fisheries NSW and marine park authorities to publicly release all scientific modelling, environmental assessments and economic impact reports used to justify spearfishing restrictions or coastal closures.
- Mandate spearfisher representation on marine advisory councils, fisheries management panels and marine park decision-making bodies to stop policies being dominated by anti-fishing activists masquerading as genuine spearfishers..
- Oppose blanket bans on spearfishing restrictions that are not supported by independent science, measurable environmental outcomes and genuine community consultation.
- Legislate protections for the rights of Australians to sustainably spearfish, dive and access public waterways without excessive government



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

interference or creeping green tape.