



PUBLIC LAND POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

Public land belongs to the public not bureaucrats, activists, or Sydney-based agencies that think locking Australians out of the bush or our waters is good policy.

For generations, ordinary Australians hunted, fished, camped, explored rivers, drove bush tracks and passed outdoor traditions down to their kids. That is part of who we are. It is part of regional life. And no government has the right to erase it.

But across NSW, more gates are going up. More tracks are being shut. More forests are being locked away. Recreational users are being buried in permits, fees and restrictions while unelected agencies quietly take control of land that taxpayers already own.

Meanwhile, the same departments preaching “conservation” are allowing weeds to spread, fire risks to build, feral animals to explode, and public infrastructure to collapse through neglect.

The people being punished are not criminals. They are law-abiding families, fishers, campers, hunters, four-wheel drivers and outdoor enthusiasts who care about the bush and keep regional economies alive.

We reject the radical “lock it up” ideology that treats human activity as a threat and public land as a museum.

We believe responsible access, conservation and practical land management go hand in hand.

We believe regional communities should decide how regional land is used not inner-city activists who never leave the footpath.



We believe Australians should be free to access and enjoy their own country without being treated like trespassers on public land.

And we believe it is time to rip out the green tape, reopen the gates, and return public land to the people.



OUR ACTION PLAN

Legislate a Public Right to Access Public Land

- Introduce a NSW Public Land and Waterway Access Act that legally protects recreational access rights across State Forests, Crown Land and public waterways.
- Force government agencies to prove why land should be closed not force the public to beg for access.
- Require all closures to pass an independent public interest test based on genuine safety and genuine ecological rather than vague precautionary principles.
- Automatically repeal any “temporary” closure lasting more than 12 months unless approved by Parliament.
- Create a public appeals tribunal so recreational users, local councils and community groups can challenge unjustified closures.
- Publish all closure decisions, environmental reports and access restrictions so bureaucrats can no longer hide lockouts behind internal processes.

Reopen State Forests, Trails and Campsites

- Conduct a statewide audit of every locked gate, closed trail, restricted forest and abandoned campground in NSW.
- Reopen suitable State Forest roads and recreational areas unless there is clear evidence of genuine risk.
- Direct Forestry Corporation and National Parks agencies to prioritise



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

access restoration as a core performance requirement.

- Allocate dedicated regional infrastructure funding to repair degraded access roads, bridges, campgrounds and river crossings that governments have neglected for years.
- Require agencies to maintain minimum public access standards for tracks, signage and recreational facilities.
- Scrap blanket closures imposed simply because agencies do not want the cost or responsibility of maintenance.

End the War on Recreational Fishers

- Ban the creation of new recreational fishing lockout zones unless approved by Parliament following full community consultation.
- Review existing marine parks and exclusion zones and remove restrictions that lack clear scientific justification.
- Introduce a Recreational Fishing Access Guarantee protecting shore-based fishing access on public waterways.
- Force water authorities and councils to reopen unnecessarily restricted dams, lakes and riverbanks for public recreation where safe.
- Fund new boat ramps, fishing platforms, kayak launch points and access roads across regional NSW using recreational licence revenue.
- Require every dollar raised from recreational fishing licences to be transparently reinvested into fishing access, stocking, habitat repair and



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

facilities.

Expand Hunting Access and Recognise Hunters as Conservation Partners

- Immediately expand declared public land hunting areas across suitable State Forests and Crown Land.
- Fast-track permit approvals for licensed hunters through a single online system with automatic renewal options for compliant licence holders.
- Remove duplicated red tape between agencies that deliberately slows or discourages lawful hunting access.
- Integrate licensed hunters into formal pest management strategies targeting feral pigs, deer, foxes and other invasive species destroying farmland and native habitat.
- Tie government pest control funding directly to measurable outcomes, including expanded public participation in culling programs.
- Prevent activist-driven bans on lawful hunting unless backed by independent scientific and economic evidence reviewed by Parliament.

Put Regional Communities Back in Control

- Strip decision-making powers away from disconnected Sydney-based bureaucracies and return them to regional communities.
- Establish elected Regional Land and Waterway Access Boards with binding advisory powers over closures, recreational planning and land management priorities.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

- Require all major public land management decisions to undergo mandatory local consultation before implementation.
- Give local councils and regional communities the power to overturn unpopular or unjustified access restrictions.
- Mandate that recreational access representatives sit on all major State land management advisory bodies.

End “Lock It Up and Leave It” Land Management

- Replace passive environmental management with active land stewardship focused on access, hazard reduction and practical conservation.
- Increase hazard reduction burns, trail clearing and invasive species control programs across public land.
- Actively encourage licensed recreational users to assist in weed control, pest management, track monitoring and environmental reporting programs.
- Tie agency funding to measurable land management outcomes instead of paperwork, reports and internal compliance targets.
- Audit National Parks and public land agencies for unmanaged fire risks, neglected infrastructure and unnecessary access restrictions.

Slash Red Tape and Cut Recreational Costs

- Scrap excessive permit systems that criminalise ordinary outdoor recreation.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

- Introduce a single integrated outdoor recreation licence portal covering camping, fishing, boating and hunting access.
- Cap camping and recreational access fees on public land to stop families being priced out of the outdoors.
- Expand free and low-cost camping areas across regional NSW by reopening underused Crown Land and State Forest sites.
- Ban cash-grab access charges where no meaningful facilities or maintenance are provided.

Build Regional Outdoor Tourism and Recreation Economies

- Create a Regional Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund focused on camping, boating, fishing, four-wheel driving and eco-tourism infrastructure.
- Prioritise projects that directly support regional jobs, tourism operators, local businesses and community events.
- Expand multi-use trail networks for horse riding, trail bikes, mountain biking and four-wheel driving in suitable areas.
- Develop regional recreational tourism corridors linking forests, waterways, campgrounds and towns to drive visitor spending into local economies.
- Promote NSW as Australia's leading destination for outdoor recreation instead of a state known for closures and restrictions.