



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION POLICY



WHAT WE BELIEVE

The world is not coming to an end, and government policy shouldn't be driven by that irrational fear.

Healthy landscapes and healthy regional communities go hand in hand.

The people who live, work and raise their families in regional NSW have spent generations caring for the land, waterways and wildlife that sustain our way of life. Farmers, fishers, hunters, foresters and local communities are not the enemy of conservation. In many cases, they are conservation's greatest custodians.

For too long, environmental policy has been driven by ideology, bureaucracy and city based decision makers who rarely experience the consequences of the policies they impose. Governments have neglected active land management, failed to control invasive species, allowed fuel loads to build up and sidelined the practical knowledge of local communities.

The result has been declining ecosystem health, worsening bushfire risks, damaged waterways, exploding feral animal populations and growing frustration across regional NSW.

We believe conservation works best when it is practical, evidence based and driven by the people who know the land best. Protecting the environment should strengthen regional communities, not punish them.

Good conservation is about active management, local involvement and measurable results.





OUR ACTION PLAN

- Restore common-sense land management across NSW by expanding hazard reduction burning, reopening neglected fire trails and supporting active forest management to reduce bushfire risk and improve ecosystem health.
- End the lock-up and leave it approach to public land management by requiring government agencies to actively manage vegetation, fuel loads, access tracks and environmental assets instead of leaving problems to escalate.
- Legislate mandatory social, economic and community impact assessments for major environmental and land management decisions affecting regional communities.
- Declare war on feral pests across NSW with permanent statewide control programs targeting pigs, deer, foxes, wild dogs, carp and other invasive species devastating farms, native wildlife and ecosystems.
- Recognise conservation hunters as frontline environmental managers by making licensed hunters a primary tool for feral animal control ahead of failed fertility schemes, wasteful contractor programs and ineffective government culls.
- Force government pest control agencies to prioritise local landholders, hunting organisations and regional contractors before outsourcing work to expensive bureaucratic programs.
- Introduce bounty and incentive programs for priority pest species to drive long-term population reduction and strengthen community participation in conservation outcomes.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

- Rebuild native fish populations by restoring fish habitat, removing barriers to fish movement and investing in practical river and estuary rehabilitation projects.
- Strengthen protections against pollution, illegal dumping and environmental degradation through tougher enforcement and increased penalties for serious offenders.
- Force greater accountability in environmental water management by requiring decisions to consider impacts on regional communities, river health, native fish populations and productive agriculture.
- Improve coordination between water, fisheries, conservation and land management agencies to eliminate duplication, conflict and bureaucratic inefficiency.
- Put local communities back at the centre of conservation by expanding support for Landcare groups, volunteer conservation organisations and community-led environmental projects.
- Formally recognise the contribution of farmers, fishers, hunters and regional landholders in delivering conservation outcomes and environmental stewardship.
- Expand citizen science and community monitoring programs so local knowledge plays a greater role in environmental decision-making.
- Ensure public land is managed for conservation, recreation, hunting, fishing and community access instead of being progressively locked away from responsible use.



OUR ACTION PLAN - Continued

- Redirect environmental funding towards practical on ground projects that deliver measurable improvements in biodiversity, habitat quality and ecosystem resilience.
- Expand habitat restoration and native vegetation management programs focused on genuine environmental outcomes rather than bureaucratic box-ticking exercises.
- Introduce transparent environmental performance reporting so taxpayers can see which conservation programs are delivering results and which are wasting money.
- Require environmental policies, biodiversity programs and conservation regulations to be based on evidence, measurable outcomes and independent review rather than political ideology.
- Strengthen regional environmental resilience by investing in bushfire mitigation, invasive species control, waterway restoration and practical landscape management that protects both nature and local communities.