



15 June 2020

SHOOTERS FISHERS AND FARMERS PARTY COMPACT WITH NSW

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) requires a detailed compact to be agreed with the NSW Government in return for parliamentary support in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council to ensure supply and passage of key policy reforms.

This compact is based on the following key priorities:

- Immediate introduction of increased Parliamentary accountability measures;
- Immediate audit and reprioritisation of NSW infrastructure programs to incorporate key job creating investments in regional infrastructure; and
- New policy initiatives to help drive economic recovery in regional NSW.

The commitment to the delivery of key projects and initiatives listed below must be made up front and be reflected in the next State budget to be delivered later this year. Planning for these projects must begin immediately with regular updates to be provided to the SFF party leader.

To move forward on this compact it is imperative that the State-wide infrastructure program be immediately audited to eliminate wasteful projects so scarce funding can be redirected:

- The impact of drought, bushfires and COVID19 in regional NSW has been catastrophic. To help combat this, SFF request the immediate establishment of a new **Regional NSW Infrastructure Board** to drive investment in the regions. This board must include key local representatives and report directly to a new Upper House Committee to be chaired by an SFF representative.
- As a gesture of goodwill in these difficult times, the Government must immediately announce the cancellation of the Powerhouse Museum relocation project.

Initially, weekly meetings with the Premier and Treasurer are envisaged to drive the implementation of proposed changes and monitor progress, with regular meetings thereafter or upon request.

The continued support from the SFF is contingent upon satisfactory progress on the delivery of this compact in its entirety.

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Parliamentary accountability measures

In light of the decline in Ministerial standards and accountability, the following improvements must be immediately introduced:

- Full compliance with Legislative Council Standing Order 52 Order for Papers, excluding Cabinet in Confidence documents that evidence a decision of Cabinet (as per the Justice Spigelman standard in *Egan v Chadwick 1999*);
- Immediate publication of all reports commissioned by the Government on a central NSW Government web site to prevent said reports being unnecessarily delayed in their release;
- Ministerial staff to be subject to same reporting requirements as Ministers when meeting with lobbyists and the same restrictions in respect of post-termination employment; and
- Implementation of key recommendations of the Legislative Council's Public Accountability Committee Report into the *Budget process for independent oversight bodies and the Parliament of New South Wales* (March 2020), including:
 - Requiring parliamentary oversight committees to review the annual budget submissions of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Auditor-General, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission, the NSW Ombudsman and the NSW Electoral Commission and make recommendations as to funding priorities;
 - The adoption of the United Kingdom model of funding for the Parliament of NSW (budget for each House set by a representative joint parliamentary committee).



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Audit and reprioritisation of NSW infrastructure programs

This compact seeks the immediate audit of all infrastructure projects by Infrastructure NSW and other priorities to realign funding with a new vision to drive the State's economic recovery.

This will include:

- Immediate announcement of the cancellation of the Powerhouse Museum move to Parramatta and other wasteful projects that will be identified through the infrastructure audit;
- Postponing the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link in favour of fast tracking regional infrastructure projects; and
- Reassessment of priorities of the \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund, \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund, and the Restart NSW Fund.

The infrastructure audit in regional areas will be overseen by a new Regional NSW Infrastructure Board, including key local representatives. This Board will immediately consider proposals to reinvest the \$4.2 billion Snowy 2.0 proceeds, other existing regional funding programs, and other reprioritised funding into key job creating regional projects including:

- Fast track the completion of the duplicated Bells Line Expressway to open up central west development zone;
- Urgently increase in funding to address black spot areas and general road maintenance in regional areas;
- Inland water diversion schemes and hydro-energy projects for the Northern Rivers;
- Fast track the existing dam projects (Dungowan, Mole River and Wyangala dams) and examine the feasibility of raising Burrinjuck Dam wall to secure water for the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area;
- Fast track development of regional pumped hydro power projects in Water NSW dams;
- Establish an international air freight hub in Griffith to complement the Parkes international freight hub to export high value agricultural and other exports directly into Asia;
- Upgrade infrastructure at regional airports to address tourism and maintenance needs and to ensure optimum bushfire fighting capacity;
- Fast track the re-building of regional hospitals plus the immediate restoration of specialty services, such as obstetrics, oncology and orthopaedics that have been stripped away;
- Increase access to TAFE in regional areas through improved facilities and better alignment of local courses with business needs;

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- Complete Maldon-Dombarton railway to improve freight transport from the Illawarra, and duplicate the South Coast rail line from Sydney to Wollongong;
- Fast track delivery of regional rail fleet to replace XPT (\$2.8 billion project announced in February 2019), and upgrade existing train lines including grain lines;
- Fast track Snowy 2.0 supporting infrastructure including:
 - The building of a train line to Cooma/Bombala and down to Eden Port to facilitate project supply and tourism opportunities; and
 - Resurface and upgrade Snowy Mountain roads, including the Brindabella Road linking Tumut and Canberra, Elliott Way from Tumberumba to Cabramurra to safeguard project supply routes.
- Fast track the building of the Melbourne to Brisbane inland rail to take freight off our roads and drive economic activity in our regions; and

To this end, a new agreement will need to be forged with the Commonwealth in relation to changed funding priorities, as well as for joint funding for new major infrastructure projects.





Immediate policy initiatives to drive Regional NSW economic recovery

- Introduce zonal regional payroll tax and stamp duty exemptions to incentivise businesses to relocate to regional NSW:
 - Increase regional relocation assistance for skilled essential services, businesses and families; and
 - Include the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area as part of the Eastern Riverina Growth Centre under the 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW.
- Expand existing and establish new regional manufacturing hubs to address strategic shortfalls identified during the COVID19 pandemic:
 - Pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical equipment; and
 - Defence industry and information technology.
- Improve delivery of bushfire and drought support to affected communities including enhanced industry support packages for agriculture, tourism and forestry;
- Realign salaries of Public Sector Executives (excluding front line staff), Statutory Office Holders and Council General Managers with current Ministerial salaries.

Examples:

- Premiers Department Head is paid over \$700,000 per annum, while the Premier is paid less than half this amount - \$329,924 per annum;
 - The LandCom CEO is paid over \$600,000 per annum, while the Planning Minister whom the CEO reports to is paid less than half - \$282,551 per annum;
 - Sydney City Council General Manager is paid over \$450,000 per annum, while the Minister for Local Government is paid \$265,631 per annum.
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- Cut numbers of Senior Executive Service by 20% (saving ~ \$200 million per annum) and redirect savings to front line staff in regional areas;
 - Cut the use of highly paid consultants and contractors by at least 50%;
 - Split Water NSW to create an **Office of Regional Water NSW** and relocate this from central Sydney to regional NSW so officials can learn first-hand about the impact of water policy on local communities;
 - Relocate the Murray Darling Basin Water Authority to the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area;

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- Relocate other NSW public service jobs to the regions where practicable, including NSW TAFE, Crown Lands and Forest Corporation;
- Abandon climate change led recovery in favour of infrastructure led recovery:
 - Immediately wind up the Climate Change Fund and re-purpose funds for regional infrastructure investment;
 - Leave financing of electric vehicle charging stations to private sector;
 - Limit solar battery incentives to domestic users only; and
 - Build a new High Efficiency Low Emission coal power station in the Hunter Valley.
- Develop indigenous economic empowerment and employment incentive package for regions:
 - Invite senior indigenous representative to lead a new advisory board with broad-based regional representation rather than academics as currently is the case, to form subset of proposed new regional NSW Infrastructure Board.
- Develop targeted regional youth assistance package including:
 - Sporting infrastructure package to address youth needs, such as synthetic fields and netball courts, PCYC and other facilities;
 - Immediately increase mental health and domestic violence support services; and
 - Drug and alcohol rehabilitation support and mentoring programs, including measures to address the scourge of ice in regional NSW.
- Take urgent action to address the failed NSW child protection system, which has resulted in tens of thousands of children at risk of serious harm being ignored (77,026 children in the year to September 2019);
- Seek amendments to the *Water Act 2007* (Cth) and the MDBP to protect the economic and social viability of basin communities, and **no more water buybacks in NSW**;
- A comprehensive review into the whole of NSW Government response to the devastating 2019/20 bushfires, including the role of the Rural Fire Service and other agencies, as well as National Parks' management of fire reduction hazards; and
- Reverse forced council amalgamations in Tumut/Tumbarumba and Gundagai/Cootamundra following receipt of Boundaries Commission report.

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A separate list of electorate specific projects and policies will be provided as appendices to this document.

Signatories to the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party Compact with NSW

Robert Borsak MLC
Party Leader

Philip Donato MP
Deputy Leader and Member for Orange

Mark Banasiak MLC

Helen Dalton MP
Member for Murray

Roy Butler MP
Member for Barwon



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Appendix 1B – Orange District Compact

- Completion of the promised \$25 million stadium and sports center in Orange within 18 months.
- \$5 million commitment to the completion of the Mount Canobolas mountain bike trails project.
- Daily return of bullet train service with the train stabled in Orange overnight.
- Hospice care facility to be based in Orange servicing the needs of Central Western NSW communities.
- Immediate flood proofing of the Newell Highway in Parkes and Forbes.
- Fast tracking of the *Parkes Special Activation Precinct* project to be completed within 18 months.





Appendix 1C – Murray District Compact

- Re-classify Griffith as a high-demand rural location by the Department of Education, to improve incentives to attract teachers to town (Griffith is currently a 2-point school, and we would like this increased to 4 points);
- Force the NSW Government to return voluntary water contributions, conveyance losses and/or salt dilution flows to Murray and Murrumbidgee irrigators;
- Renovate the police accommodation building in Yenda so that a policeman can live there;
- Establish an Orthopaedics service and in-patient mental health service at Griffith Base Hospital;
- Permit red gum thinning in former State Forest areas to stimulate forestry jobs in the Murray electorate;
- Complete upgrades of Leeton and Deniliquin hospitals, including re-establishment of paediatric services in Deniliquin;
- Build an ambulance station at Tocumwal;
- Build a new hospital at Wentworth;
- Re-activate the Narrandera to Tocumwal rail line;
- NSW Government to support a federal royal commission into water;
- NSW Government to commit \$2 million in funding for Macquarie University's study into high rates of Motor Neurone Disease in regional areas;
- Abolish regional health districts and bring back local hospital board system – with each board represented by two directors;
- Passage without Government amendments through both Houses of Parliament of the *Water Management Amendment (Water Rights Transparency) Bill 2020*, to establish a state-wide water register; and
- NSW Government to fully meter and monitor water use throughout the state (including floodplain harvesting) and incorporate this in Water Sharing Plans and Basin Plan targets.



Appendix 1D – Barwon District Compact

- Passage without Government amendments through both Houses of Parliament of the *Government Sector Employment Amendment (Teleworking) Bill 2020* when introduced. The Bill will seek to increase public sector in Regional NSW through work from home provisions.
- Passage without Government amendments through both Houses of Parliament of the *Water (Commonwealth Powers) Amendment (Termination of References) Bill 2020* when re-introduced.
- A review of rest stops on NSW country roads with a focus on fatigue and access to toilet facilities, including a commitment to fund rest stops based on the findings to reduce road trauma on country roads, and allow rural residents the decency of a dignified comfort stop.
- Review of the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme through a commitment to CPI linked increases including 2014 - 2020 and then ongoing.
- Adoption of a wild dog bounty within the wild dog control strategy.
- Quarterly updates of every cent of funding or proposed projects and funding being granted and/or promised within SFF Legislative Assembly Districts. No member of the NSW Government should be given the opportunity to exclusively announce funding in said Districts.



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Appendix 1E – Recreational and Commercial Fishing Compact

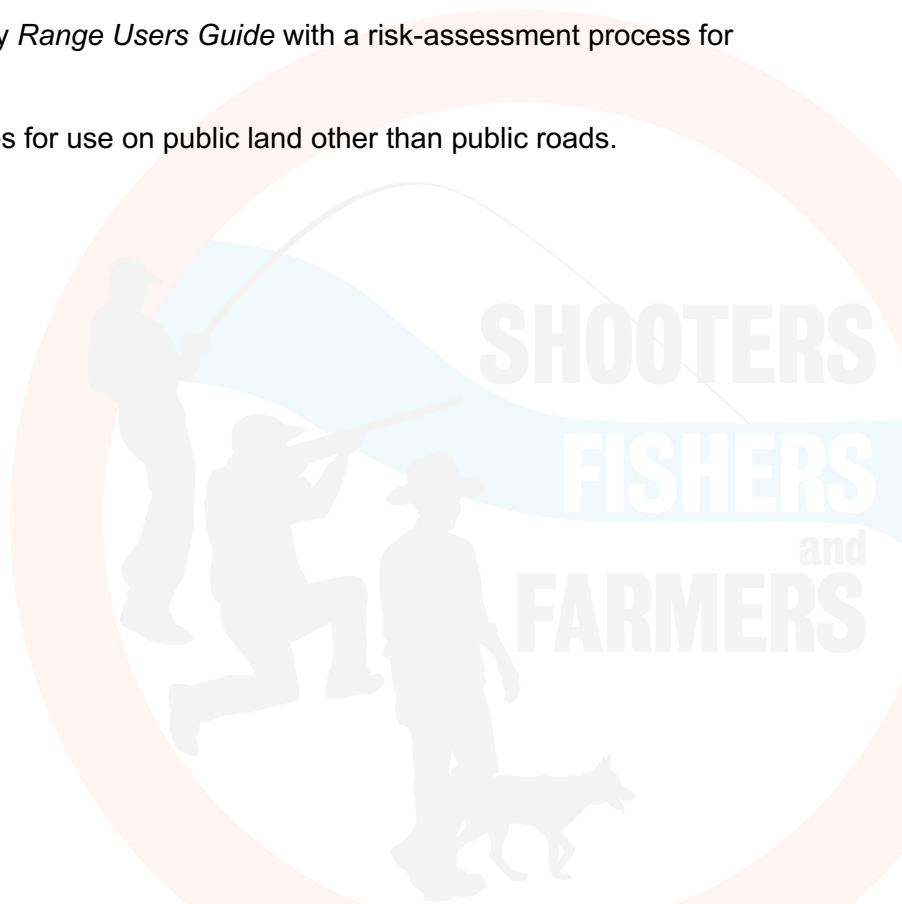
- Passage of *Fishing Legislation Amendment (Right to Fish) Bill 2019*;
- 10-year moratorium on new marine parks;
- Independent auditing of all fishing trust funds with full and timely online publication of audit reports and accounts, and review of management structures;
- Immediately address and map the systematic state-wide lockout and access blockage currently being exercised by Local Government authorities and Government departments, which have been designed to lock out and prevent fishing access;
- Declaration of Sydney Harbour as a recreational fishing haven; and
- Independent review and report on current status of professional fishing licensing and buy-back programs.





Appendix 1F – Firearms and Hunting Compact

- Full independent review of the operation, management, and financing of NSW Firearms Registry by former Deputy Commissioner of Police, Nick Kaldas. Terms of Reference for the review to be agreed with the SFF;
- Immediate reinstatement of the former NSW Game Council as a separate NSW statutory authority within the Department of Regional NSW cluster;
- Declaration of the 79 NSW National Parks agreed to by the O’Farrell Government, as a new category of National Park to be designated for recreational hunting, managed by Game Council NSW;
- Immediate issue of registered firearm suppressor permits to licensed firearm owners on health and safety grounds, for rifles and shotguns only;
- Review and rectification of NSW firearm “appearance” laws;
- Restoration of the Safe Shooting Program and delivery of shooting range funding in NSW for the next 3 years of \$10 million;
- Passage of *Crimes Amendment (Possession or Discharge of Firearms in Commission of Offences) Bill 2019*;
- Replacement of the Firearms Registry *Range Users Guide* with a risk-assessment process for assessing shooting range safety; and
- Recreational registration of quad bikes for use on public land other than public roads.





Appendix 1G – General and Other Issues Compact

Greyhound racing industry

- Change the racing code gambling tax distribution to the three racing codes to reflect market share distribution as opposed to the arbitrary allocation currently used;
- Allocate \$50 million over three years for greyhound racing infrastructure improvement;
- Finalise and commence a center of excellence racing venue for the Sydney market to replace Wentworth Park;
- Review operations and funding of Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission via a complete statutory review; and
- Require a briefing from Greyhound Racing NSW Board and management on current status of the industry, complete with future plans and road map for development.

Regional health care

- Implementation of the SFF Regional Health Care Policy (annexure 1G 1.1).

General issues

- Establishment of a Special Commission of Inquiry into Water Mismanagement, corruption and the Murray Darling Basin Plan, with a view to implementing our 10-point plan on water management;
- Government to immediately commit to just and rightful compensation to taxi plate owners, operators and drivers and an appropriate distribution of "hardship" transitional assistance free of the unfair application requirements currently in force; and
- Passage of an SFF Bill that will ensure legislated drought assistance and declaration of drought as a state of emergency, when introduced.



Appendix 1G 1.1 – SFF Regional Health Care Strategy

1. Develop a comprehensive incentive package to attract nurses and doctors to regional locations. Most rural areas struggle to attract qualified medical staff. Rural Doctors Settlement Package payments should be increased to the market rate. An annual training allowance can be provided to cover both course, travel and locum replacement costs. Housing can be provided where necessary.
2. Increase hospital staffing by adopting the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association recommendation to have one nurse for every four patients in medical and surgical wards; and one nurse for every three patients in emergency departments and children's wards across all regional hospitals.
3. Bring back local boards represented by clinical staff and community members in each public hospital to make decisions on hospital staffing and funding needs, and to lobby government directly. At present, regional boards are favouring larger population hubs and neglecting small town hospitals.
4. Establish a \$500 million independently administered grant fund for regional hospital equipment. Many regional communities are forced to conduct fundraising events and raffles to fund vital hospital equipment such as X-ray machines and CT scanners. The NSW Government should establish a grants program, in which each local board can apply for funding for new or upgraded equipment
5. Conduct an independent audit of regional public hospital services to determine what basic services are missing from each hospital. The results of this audit should be published on the NSW Health website, and the NSW Government should then develop a five-year plan and target to address these gaps. Multipurpose Service (MPS) sites should be gradually replaced by proper hospitals.
6. Develop a mental health service at every NSW regional hospital, by employing at least one permanent mental health practitioner in larger regional services and expanding outreach services for smaller hospitals.
7. Expand the NSW Government's Patient Transport Service, and roll it out to small towns. At present, the service is only available in big population centres, so small towns depend on ambulances.
8. Double travel and accommodation assistance for patients who need to travel more than 100km for medical treatment. At present, the NSW Government's Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme provides eligible recipients with just \$43 a night, which is insufficient. Both the travel and accommodation allowance should be doubled.
9. Stop all privatisation of public hospitals across NSW. There were reports of cost cutting and equipment shortages. It's clear privatisation of health care does not benefit patients.
10. Conduct an inquiry into reports of bullying, harassment and misuse of funds by senior managers within NSW Health regional district officers.

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

15 June 2020

Dear Premier,

I have been approached by your Government to open a dialogue on how we may work cooperatively in the best interests of NSW, particularly in light of the economic issues facing this State post COVID19.

As you are aware, the SFF is unashamedly biased for the bush.

To this end, attached are a series of documents that have been presented to your Cabinet colleagues, the Treasurer, Leader of the House in the Legislative Assembly, and the Leader of the House in the Legislative Council:

- Appendix 1A – SFF Compact with NSW
- Appendix 1B – Orange District Compact
- Appendix 1C – Murray District Compact
- Appendix 1D – Barwon District Compact
- Appendix 1E – Recreational and Commercial Fishing Compact
- Appendix 1F – Firearms and Hunting Compact
- Appendix 1G – General and Other Issues Compact
 - Appendix 1G 1.1 – SFF Regional Health Care Strategy

We thank you in advance for your consideration of the above and look forward to meeting with you to discuss the above.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Robert Borsak MLC
Party Leader Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party



15 June 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Compact with NSW Government

Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party Leader, Robert Borsak, today announced that SFF have offered to work with the NSW Government to help the State recover from the economic damage and hardship caused by the drought, bushfires, and COVID-19.

“It’s not just about Sydney; it’s about all of NSW. To do this, the Government must share our clear bias for the bush,” said Mr Borsak.

“The Government must change specific priorities and policies and embrace further parliamentary accountability.

“The National Cabinet model that has replaced the aging COAG model is the first step.”

Given the current make-up of the NSW Legislative Council, in which the SFF share the balance of power, and will likely do so in the next term of Parliament, the NSW Government will continue to rely on the support of the SFF.

“Without SFF, it will be difficult to get NSW back on its economic feet again quickly,” said Mr Borsak.

“The compact with NSW presented to the NSW Government by the SFF seeks to redress poor policy, economic and health outcomes across regional NSW.

“It also seeks to address the legitimate concerns of law-abiding firearm owners, fishers and farmers across the State.

“The NSW Government has an opportunity to finally work with the SFF in good faith and deliver actual and meaningful improvements in the standard of living for the forgotten people of this State.”

The SFF welcomes the postponement of the ANZ stadium rebuild and the shelving of Sydney’s desalination plant expansion. The SFF now calls on the Premier, amongst other key initiatives and policy changes, to immediately cancel the wasteful Powerhouse Museum project.

“The Powerhouse has become emblematic of how this government does business - fake consultation backed by a dodgy business case that lines the pockets of developers. We cannot afford this extravagant largesse in these difficult economic times. This is non-negotiable,” Mr Borsak said.

“The *Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party Compact with New South Wales* outlines the broad changes the SFF seek from the Government in return for conditional support from the Party.

“The SFF compact is a community-building program that seeks to right the wrongs of nearly 30 years of bad policy and ignorance of regional NSW policy requirements. It’s about a fair go for all of NSW, not just inner-city Sydney.

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“The challenge to this Government and future governments of NSW is to shake off the “business as usual approach” they have adopted over the last nine years.

“The reality is that significant problems in the NSW economy and budget were emerging before the pandemic.

“Our over-reliance on China for manufactured goods, the decline of agriculture and the hollowing out of regional communities must be reversed. Our compact focuses on an infrastructure and industry-led recovery driven by the regions.

“This unchanged Sydney city-centric approach has cost NSW jobs and communities, especially across agriculture, mining, and manufacturing - that now have to be fought for and replaced.

“Sale of revenue-producing public assets may have a place at certain times when economically appropriate. However, this Government has made an art form of development “sugar hits”, without proper policy adjustments in other areas.

“We call on the Premier and Treasurer to work with our Party if they genuinely wish to make all of NSW no. 1 again,” said Mr Borsak.

ENDS

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