



# Natural Environment Public Access and Fair Use Policy

*The Regional Australia Party seeks to re-invigorate all Australia's connection with the land, particularly through increased access to State Forests and National Parks for recreational use. The Regional Australia Party views the connection with the natural environment as a cornerstone of our national consciousness and cultural heritage and, as such, seeks to implement and promote a Natural Environment, Public Access and Fair Use Policy.*

## **The Regionals shall:**

- **Provide for greater access to public lands for all outdoor enthusiasts.**
- **Provide for the introduction in QLD (and Nationwide) of a NSW style DPI managed recreational hunting licence for selected State Forests, targeting invasive species.**
- **Provide for free access to all areas and facilities within State Forests and National Parks for four-wheel driving and camping.**
- **Provide for permit free use of appropriate beaches for recreational purposes including four-wheel driving.**
- **Stop the unreasonable closure of tracks and parks.**
- **Support the reopening of those tracks and parks closed without valid reason.**
- **Support the creation of new tracks to encourage four-wheel drive and off-road drivers and riders, including horse riding.**
- **Ensure the maintenance and enhance the value of our National Parks and camping areas including implementing measures to deter damage to public assets and provisions to apprehend and prosecute offenders.**

- **Provide incentives, including greater funding for Clubs and Associations to regularly utilize our natural environment and participate in area clean-up programs.**
- **Ensure the Government better engages with users of State Forests and National Parks, and in particular Clubs and Associations, pursuing activities such as four-wheel driving, camping, trekking, climbing, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing and hunting on issues in relation to closures, track gating and general training and safety education.**
- **Introduce recreational registration and insurance for off road motorcycles.**
- **Support greater investment into infrastructure including camp site amenities, jetties, boat ramps, Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD's), artificial reefs, and weapon ranges for indoor and outdoor firearms and archery training and competition.**
- **Fund the expansion of scout and guide movements as means to encourage more young people to participate and enjoy outdoor recreational activities.**
- **Provide grants to Clubs and Associations to assist, encourage and facilitate youth outdoor recreational activity, including camping, trekking, climbing, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing and hunting.**
- **Facilitate legislation to encourage the participation and development of fossicking across public lands.**
- **Expand bow hunting opportunities and oppose any moves to require bows to be registered.**

## **Vision**

Australian culture is inextricably linked to the 'great outdoors'. However, as our nation has become more urbanized, the disconnect between the inner-city political elites and the regional heartland of Australian culture has become a growing divide. The urban elite's loss of the Australian identity has led to a raft of policies that have resulted in public lands being locked away and neglected.

The Regional Australia Party seeks to re-invigorate all Australia's connection with the land, particularly through increased access to State Forests and National Parks for recreational use. The Regional Australia Party views the connection with the natural environment as a cornerstone of our national consciousness and cultural heritage and, as such, seeks to implement and promote a Natural Environment, Public Access and Fair Use Policy.

The great outdoors is meant to be enjoyed by all. We reject the view taken by those who seek to restrict access to public land. State Forests and National Parks never meant to be

restricted areas and should be developed to encourage visitation, and to promote Australian's traditional connection to and understanding of our environment.

We strongly support improved and expanded access to all public lands and waters as a means for all citizens to enjoy their cultural outdoor, sporting, and recreational activities. Four-wheel driving, off-road motorbike and mountain biking, camping, trekking, climbing, horseback riding, fishing and hunting are popular and legitimate recreations deserving of better support.

The move by both sides of politics to lock away public lands from the fair use of the nation's citizens is to be condemned and resisted. National Parks, Reserves and State Forests have increasingly been made off-limits to many popular recreational and sporting activities. The Regional Australia Party seeks to reverse this trend and to support regional communities and economies by re-establishing recreational access to the traditional heartland for all Australians.