

MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF NSW



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BARRY'S BETRAYAL: SHOOTING ALLOWED IN NATIONAL PARKS

The Premier of NSW has today broken a pre-election promise to keep recreational shooting out of our National Parks, announcing that the government will be opening up 34 National Parks, 31 Nature Reserves and 14 State Conservation Areas across the state to recreational hunters, said the National Parks Association of NSW.

"This is a very dirty deal that has been sprung on the public with no warning", said Kevin Evans, CEO of the National Parks Association of NSW.

"During his first week in government, the Premier made a strong promise to environment groups and the people of NSW that he would not allow shooting in National Parks. Now he has done a deal with the Shooters and Fishers Party so that they will support his electricity privatization bill.

"National Parks are for the protection of nature and for the enjoyment of the NSW public, not for blood sport. This decision by the government shows complete disregard for public safety and for the purpose of our National Park system.

"The government is trying to increase visitation to our national parks, but who will want to visit a park which is ringing with the sound of gunshots?

"The government is 'greenwashing' this deal as a way of managing feral animals, but control of feral animals is best achieved by professionals, not by sporting hunters. Recreational hunting has not been proven to be an effective method of feral animal control.

“Despite what the Premier or the Game Council might say, the primary motivation for recreational hunters is hunting, not carefully managing the threat to our native species from feral animals. Recreational hunters have a history of deliberately introducing and moving feral animals across the landscape to create fresh hunting opportunities.

“NPA is appalled that our national parks have been used as a pawn in a political trade-off, at the expense of nature and the NSW public. Our biodiversity and our protected areas are far too precious for this.”

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