



# STATE ELECTION 2019 Policy Priorities



## POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES TO THE OVERALL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FABRIC OF NSW

Funding for regional areas, including infrastructure, road projects and new dams	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	Our \$1.6 billion Regional Growth Fund was set up... we have committed to over 1,300 community infrastructure projects.  (We) have undertaken a road safety blitz resulting in a reduced road toll and thousands of kilometres of country roads being sealed or upgraded.  ... we have already committed \$1 billion to invest in water infrastructure projects which will secure town water for regional communities as well as improve large scale water infrastructure for industries in regional NSW.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Establishment of a Shadow Minister for Rural Affairs, complementing Labor's Shadow Minister for Regional Development.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	The Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party NSW strongly support policy objectives 1, 2 and 3 except the full classification of deer as a pest. Our Members of Parliament have, and will continue to champion many of these objectives. We are in a position to be able to lobby, negotiate and force the Government both State and Federal for their mismanagement of the issues that matter in Country NSW
<b>The Greens</b>	We agree on the need for more equitable and significant funding for regional areas.  We are cautious about supporting new dams and would only do so in accordance with our policies.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	The CDP support the establishment of high speed rail and highways to create a decentralised state with job and business opportunities in all regional areas. Water is a big issue and we want to connect water storage so as to maximize the storage of water without destroying the life in our rivers. Where more dams can be built without compromising the rivers health we will support them.

Stimulating regional job creation, and decentralisation	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	We delivered legacy projects such as the Broken Hill pipeline... water security is prioritised under the \$4.2 billion Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Organisations such as RDAs and joint organisations of councils can be better engaged and brought together to pursue targeted development and economic opportunities in the regions, and Labor will work to achieve this.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Creation of four renewable energy infrastructure hubs in regional areas.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	The CDP support the establishment of high speed rail and highways to create a decentralised state with job and business opportunities in all regional areas. Water is a big issue and we want to connect water storage so as to maximize the storage of water without destroying the life in our rivers. Where more dams can be built without compromising the rivers health we will support them.

Drought support and recovery- same level or above current initiatives, including capturing a larger pool of rate/fee relief and water infrastructure grant eligibility	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	We have made more than a billion dollars in drought support available to help farmers.. including long-term low interest loans for farmers to invest in efficiency-improving infrastructure through the Farm Innovation Fund, as well as Freight Assistance Subsidies and more funding into Mental Health.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Continuation of drought relief and monitor associated challenges, such as the adequacy of mental health strategies in the regions.  Labor will also work with the Federal Government to better prepare for drought through the updating of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Drought Reform 2013.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	The emergency support must continue as it is now with possible increases if the drought continues, though once over we must prepare better for the next event.



## POLICY OBJECTIVE 2: SIGNIFICANT AND EQUITABLE INVESTMENT INTO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ISSUES THAT IMPACT REGIONAL, RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

QVax onto the PBS	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	Minister Hazzard wrote to the Federal Health Minister on 9 June 2017 asking for a national collaborative approach to Q fever research to be undertaken and requesting that Q fever be designated as a priority for the National Health and Medical Research Council.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Fund 8,000 vaccinations for at-risk residents in rural and regional NSW as part of a \$4 million commitment to combat Q fever. The vaccinations will be available to people who are currently not covered under employer schemes.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Increased storage of blood products in regional hospitals	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	Support in principle for improved access to blood for transfusions and emergency supplies. NSW Health has been working to improve the availability of blood and blood products for emergency situations in all parts of the state. Where previously practitioners may have waited many hours for assistance in emergency situations there are now telemedicine services and retrieval team across NSW ready to respond in a timely manner.  NSW Health has also reviewed local processes for determining blood stock locations, inventory levels, and the distribution of elective transfusion services.  To further support rural Local Health Districts to optimise approaches to blood inventory management, the Ministry of Health and the Clinical Excellence Commission will convene a cross-LHD working group in early 2019.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Support for better and increased storage of blood products across a wider range of regional, rural and remote hospitals.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Improved nurse to patient ratios	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	On 17 February, the Liberals and Nationals announced they will deliver 5000 new nurses and midwives over the next four years - the largest workforce boost in the history of Australian healthcare - following extensive consultation with healthcare experts regarding the workforce needed to deliver top quality patient care.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Addition of more than 5,500 nurses and midwives to deliver mandated nurse to patient ratios, to apply to maternity, medical and surgical and paediatric wards.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	Access to health in the bush must be as equal as possible as it is in the cities. To this end we will encourage the development of remote education centres for health studies as we know people leaving the bush to study medicine do not always return but doctors and health professionals are needed in the bush.

Review of the decision on registered nurses in high care nursing homes 24/7	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Enshrine in legislation the requirement for 24/7 registered nurses for high needs aged care.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Protection of health employees against violence and assaults	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Employ an additional 250 Health Security Staff, upgrade all hospital security officers to Health Security Staff with additional powers similar to Special Constables who can carry handcuffs, provide extra training for Health Security Staff, and create a specialist Secure Hospitals Unit within NSW Health to oversee the activity and conduct safety audits of the State's hospitals.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Cardiac bus service to visit and service country NSW	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	
<b>NSW Labor</b>	In-principle support to the implementation of a cardiac bus service to visit and service country areas.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Increased housing options for older women faced with homelessness or housing a crisis	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Review of the priority housing list to ensure older women facing homelessness are prioritised. Support of the specialist homelessness services in addressing the growing number of clients.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Committed to building more social housing that guarantees affordability and security by charging rent as a proportion of income, and increasing federal funding for transitional housing and crisis services by \$500m a year. Both programs would be serviced by specialised and professional support, and all new buildings will be 100% accessible for people with mobility needs.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Equal access to education for regional children	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	We have spent \$1.4 billion building or upgrading more than 60 regional schools.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Boost the number of career advisors by an extra 100 for regional high schools.  Establish a unit of 15 dedicated career advisors to target areas of persistent high youth unemployment.  Invest a further \$100,000 to fund a series of roving career fairs to promote opportunities in regional NSW, and tasking the NSW Education Standards Authority to develop online tools to promote job opportunities and further education and training.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Ensure every public school is funded to 100% of the Schooling Resource Standard by 2020.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Increased funding for reliable mobile coverage and technology for regional schools	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	The Nationals in Government will invest \$400 million to supercharge internet reliability and speed. This funding will extend the fence by 742 kilometres, increasing production options for graziers in the Western Division and reducing predation from feral pests.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Support increasing funding for telecommunications in regional schools.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	



## POLICY OBJECTIVE 3: ONGOING AND INCREASED SUPPORT FOR OUR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Increased feral pest control and eradication, particularly feral cats and wild dogs	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	A \$37.5 million extension to the Wild Dog Exclusion Fence to stop wild dogs entering NSW. This funding will extend the fence by 742 kilometres, increasing production options for graziers in the Western Division and reducing predation from feral pests.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Additional \$50M in funding to help fight weeds and pests in NSW.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	As far as it is possible to eradicate the wild dogs and cats we are fully supportive of that.

Full classification of deer as a pest animal	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	The Nationals support the classification of deer as a pest animal. We will continue to examine how we can reduce red tape around deer management. We have announced the largest, best practice broad scale deer management program ever undertaken in Australia that will occur over the next 8 years in Kosciuszko National Park and adjoining properties.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Not supported.
<b>The Greens</b>	
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	We believe that some may wish to farm the deer and if so we will recommend a window for those wanting to round up the wild deer to do that, after that, control and/or eradication would be supported.

Compulsory water metering of all water users in the Murray Darling Basin	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	The NSW Nationals have introduced a no meter - no pump rule in NSW, which came into effect on 1 December 2018.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Compulsory metering in line with the recommendations of the Matthews Inquiry.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree. We have also called for a Royal Commission into the management of the Murray Darling Basin.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	

Protection of agricultural land and water from inappropriate coal and coal seam gas developments, and urban development	
<b>NSW Liberals and Nationals</b>	Our work to introduce the 2014 NSW Gas plan will be strengthened by our announcement of a new independent Agriculture Commissioner, with legislated powers to protect the right to farm in NSW. Three key areas will be a priority; reforming planning and zoning to strengthen the platform for farmers in land-use conflicts, supporting the dairy sector and addressing the recent attack on the industry by 'Aussie Farms' group.
<b>NSW Labor</b>	Moratorium on coal seam gas across NSW and establish permanent 'no-go' areas which protect drinking water catchments, prime agricultural land and residential areas.
<b>Shooters, Fishers and Farmers</b>	Support.
<b>The Greens</b>	Agree.
<b>Christian Democratic Party</b>	