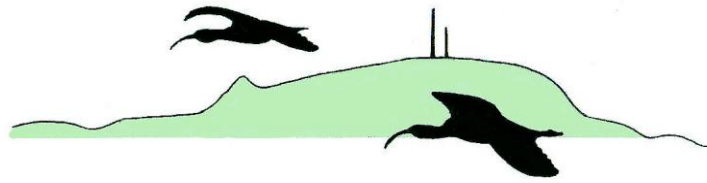


**ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST  
& CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**  
PO Box 369  
ORANGE NSW 2800



21 June 2012

Barry O'Farrell  
Premier of NSW  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, Sydney

Mr O'Farrell,

The Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society opposes the proposal to allow recreational shooters into certain National Parks, Nature Reserves and State Conservation Areas, including Mt Canobolas SCA, Mullion Range SCA, Goonoo NP, Coolah Tops NP and the Macquarie Marshes.

Use of contracted professional shooters as an integrated component of feral animal control in these natural areas is current practice but National Park rangers are concerned that amateur shooters will disrupt these programs without having any significant effect on feral animal numbers.

Recreational shooters will also create dangerous conditions for other park users, such as bird watchers, orienteers and bushwalkers. How many native animals and birds are also going to be shot in error?

The disturbing thing about this action is that the proposal to change the Game and Feral Animal Control Act has not been based on the advice and support of the people managing these areas but simply to buy the votes of the Shooters and Fishers Party to support the government's decision to sell yet another part of the State's essential infrastructure.

The whole process is under-prepared as the Minister for the Environment is unable to explain how the new system will operate.

National Parks were created to preserve nature for the quiet enjoyment of the individual and the preservation and management of native flora and fauna. They were not meant to be holding places for recreational shooters to blast away in an unstructured and destructive way.

John Austin  
President