



Public Concern grows over new blood sport law

MEDIA RELEASE

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Public opposition to the Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill is mounting with just a few days before the NSW Government decides whether or not to pass in part or in full, the Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill.

The Bill would see shooting in national parks, private game reserves, the dangerous release of pest species of birds and the reintroduction of recreational duck shooting.

"In the last two weeks public meetings have been held in the Blue Mountains, Sutherland and Pymble with over 500 people in attendance. These meetings called for the complete rejection of the legislation proposed by the Shooters Party. The resolution passed by these meetings is below."

"Thousands of people have signed petitions against the Game Amendment Bill and hundreds have attended public meetings.

"Wildlife and environment groups will continue to do everything we can to fight this appalling legislation. We will be holding a rally on Tuesday at 11am outside Parliament House to bring objections to the Parliament," said the Colong Foundation's Keith Muir.

"Animal welfare and environment groups believe that the proposed Game law is likely to be debated when Parliament resumes on Tuesday.

"It will be a test of strength for the Rees Government. The Shooters Party bill is about short term political expedience, it provides more opportunities for blood sports regardless of risks to agricultural production, the State's ecology, public safety or the integrity of national parks," Mr Muir said.

"The Bill would foster the spread of feral animals, by releasing and relocating pest birds onto proposed private game safari parks. The birds and other ferals, such as deer, are well known to escape by jumping over fences. There is also a major temptation to sell these ferals to visiting hunters who may well release them into their local parks instead of eating them.

"It would undermine existing animal welfare legislation and policy and will have adverse conservation outcomes.

A final public meeting to protest against the proposed shooters' law will be held regardless of the decision the Government makes next week, on **Wed 9 September, 5.30-8pm**, in the Theatre at Parliament House, Macquarie Street.

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OUR PARKS AND ANIMALS ARE NOT FAIR GAME

The public meetings in Pymble, Sutherland and the Blue Mountains resolved:

That this meeting opposes the Shooters Party Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill that allows:

- a) hunting in National Parks
- b) private game parks
- c) hunting of native animals, including birds
- d) release or relocation of introduced birds

and calls on the Premier Nathan Rees and the Leader of the Opposition, Barry O'Farrell to oppose this Bill and see to it that the entire Bill is voted down.