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## **“Fishers & Shooters Party demands irresponsible”**

The Blue Mountains Conservation Society (BMCS) calls for caution on succumbing to the demands of the Shooters & Fishers Party after reports reveal their policy demands are environmentally irresponsible.

“The finer details of pre-election lobbying by Mr. Robert Brown, Leader of the Fishers & Shooters Party, evidence appalling policy” says Tara Cameron, Vice President of BMCS.

Media reports show that the Shooters and Fishers are demanding access to 29 national parks to shoot feral animals and deer, no new national parks to be created, \$3m per year of public funding for the Game Council, a weakening of gun licensing laws and the introduction shooting as an approved school sport.

“The Game Council is a waste of tax payer dollars, with much of its funding spent on publicity and self promotion” says Tara Cameron.

“Recreational shooting could be better administered by Forests NSW, a solution that would save money and ensure proper oversight. The Game Council’s own ex communications manager told the Sydney Morning Herald that “the waste and politicisation of the agency are hard to believe”.

“Money urgently needs to be re-directed to scientifically designed, feral animal control programs administered by the National Parks and Wildlife service or other government agencies. Claims that recreational hunting is somehow a ‘conservation program’ are simply unfounded. The sport is a heavily subsidised and poorly administered and drains funds away from proper feral animal control.

“Mr. Robert Brown’s lobbying to have shooting introduced as an official school sport and a relaxation on gun licensing laws are nothing less than socially irresponsible.”

The BMCS is a volunteer organisation that aims to safeguard the future of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and is currently working to protect the ‘Gardens of Stone’ from the threats of a proposed open-cut mining application.

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