

# Greens NSW

## Recreation and Sport Policy



Revised February 2014

### Principles

The NSW Greens believe:

1. Recreation and sport are necessary for the maintenance of good mental and physical health and are important in the development of social, organisational and communication skills.
2. Increased funding of a wide range of community-based sport and recreation facilities is an important investment in the wellbeing of communities and should be a key element of health policies.
3. Fostering health-enhancing recreation and sport, with greater emphasis on the enjoyment of physical activities offers great benefits to individuals and society.
4. Government has a responsibility to ensure equitable access to affordable sport and physical recreation facilities and services.
5. Unregulated or insufficiently regulated sports betting, including gambling advertising in both traditional media and social media, poses a threat to the integrity of professional sport.
6. In equal opportunity in the field of competitive sport.
7. Health/Physical Education/Sport must be integral components of the K-12 school curriculum and not outsourced to private providers.

8. Young people should have the opportunity to experience a wide range of team sports not just full body contact sports which can limit opportunities for participation.

## **Aims**

The NSW Greens will work towards:

### **Competitive Sports**

9. Ensuring that the identification and development of talented athletes includes caring, educational and vocational support of the athlete.
10. The adoption of codes of practice in sport which discourage racial abuse, acts of violent or antisocial behaviour and discrimination.
11. Achieving equal opportunity in the field of competitive sport.

### **Role of Local Government**

12. Community grassroots level decision making in sport and recreation, with local government playing a pivotal role in the provision, maintenance and planning for well-resourced and safe facilities in each local government area.
13. Equal access to sport and recreation facilities for Aboriginal Australians, women, people with disabilities, older people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
14. Planning for medium to long term active and passive recreation and sporting facilities to be integral to planning processes.

## **Youth**

15. Encouraging all children to participate in physical activity, with schools assisting in establishing fitness habits as a part of a continuing healthy lifestyle.
16. Incorporating Health/Physical Education/Sport as integral components of the K-12 school curriculum to be taught by trained teaching staff and not outsourced to private providers.
17. Providing ample and varied opportunities for participation in competitive and non-competitive sports, where recreation or physical activity is the primary motivation.

## **Recreational Opportunities for People with Disabilities**

18. Providing access in local government areas for people with disabilities to participate in a broad range of recreational facilities, particularly outdoor and adventure opportunities.
19. Developing the potential of people with disabilities and securing sufficient funding for training youth with disabilities.

## **Women in Recreation and Sport**

20. Promoting women's sport including support for the professionalisation of women's competitions and more equitable media coverage.
21. Providing adequate short-term childcare facilities which would allow mothers more opportunity to participate in active recreation.

## **Participation in Recreation and Aboriginal Australians**

22. Ongoing participation by Aboriginal Australians in sport with government and major sporting associations subsidising programs.

23. The establishment of sporting clinics in remote Aboriginal communities staffed by appropriately trained, preferably Aboriginal personnel.
24. The provision of programs and a supportive environment for Aboriginal children to participate in sport, and Aboriginal communities being provided with adequate resources to create culturally appropriate physical activities for Aboriginal youth.

### **Older People**

25. In consultation with local communities, providing older people with adequate, appropriate opportunities to participate in physical activity.

### **Drugs in Sport**

26. Providing relevant education about the problem of drugs in sport, with sports curricula placing greater emphasis on the dangers of performance-enhancing substances and reinforcing the values of participation and self-respect, regardless of innate sporting abilities.

### **Motorised Personal Water Craft**

27. Adequate regulation, monitoring and policing of the use on of recreational motorised personal water craft (MPWC) to ensure safety for surfers, swimmers and local residents, and to prevent loss of amenity, reduce noise and air pollution, prevent ecological damage and reduce death and injury.
28. Implementing the Jet Free Coalition (JFK) management plan for regulating MPWC's, which defines MPWC's as those craft that:
  - 29.1. Are designed to travel at speeds greater than 10 knots;
  - 29.2. Have the ability to be used in the surf zone.

Key features of the JFK management plan are:

29.3. Legislation to mandate that effective prop guards are fitted when used in the surf zone to reduce the severity of accidents;

29.4 Mandatory zero blood alcohol levels while riding MPWC's;

29.5 The creation of a "surfpath" extending 300 m from the shoreline around the NSW coastline. All MPWC's are to be banned from this surfpath. Exemption areas must be clearly designated and signposted, and could only be created after extensive public consultation and agreement by all stakeholders;

29.6 A full audit, conducted by the relevant local council, of all enclosed waters, and a creation of a local management plan that considers ecology, safety, amenity and serenity;

29.7 A ban on all MPWC's using narrow or shallow creeks or inlets;

29.8 A ban on MPWC's travelling within 300 m of non-motorised craft users or swimmers in open waters at speeds exceeding 4 knots except for the purposes of securing personal safety. In enclosed waters, this stand-off distance is to be 60m.

## **Water Safety**

29. Maintaining a comprehensive water safety program, with special emphasis on rock fishing and surf safety. Adequate funding and government support and commitment is required to maintain consistent and effective programs aimed at reducing death by drowning and other injuries.

30. Supporting programs targeted at both the community and school children with key involvement of the relevant local government, surf lifesaving and surfing organisations, such as the Surf Rider Foundation. Within these programs, every primary school student should be taught swimming and

- basic water survival skills and community learn-to-swim programs should be expanded.
31. Incorporating a Surf Awareness program as part of the syllabus where appropriate and offering and promoting other advanced certificates.
  32. Introducing an on-going program of surf and water safety awareness targeted at in-bound tourists, including appropriate signage, to reduce accidents and fatalities.
  33. Providing adequate funding for water safety organisations and local councils to support their activities in reducing accidents and fatalities.

### **Recreational Shooting**

34. Ending hunting and shooting in national parks, state forests, nature reserves and state conservation areas by individuals licensed by the Game and Feral Animal Control Act (GFAC program).
35. Ending the proliferation of regional shooting complexes in NSW because of their adverse impact on local amenity and because they encourage activities which can compromise community safety.
36. Curtailing the level of state government funding to regional shooting complexes, because such funds would be better directed to other recreational activities which can provide community health benefits.