

HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS NOTES (rally 18/4/2013)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT A DELIBERATE ATTACK ON THE VERY IDEA OF NATIONAL PARKS

IT'S PART OF A CULTURE WAR ON NATURE CONSERVATION BY VERY CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND THE SHOOTERS PARTY

NATIONAL PARKS WERE INVENTED TO PROTECT NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS AND TO CONSERVE THE ECOLOGY OF UNSPOILT LANDSCAPE, TO PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE, TO PROVIDE FOR RECREATION ACTIVITY THAT DOES NOT DAMAGE THE ENVIRONMENT.

THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF KURRING-GAI CHASE NATIONAL PARK IN THE PREMIERS ELECTORATE AS LONG AGO AS 1894.

THEY WERE NOT ESTABLISHED FOR LOGGING OR FOR GRAZING.

AND UNTIL NOW NO ENVIRONMENT MINISTER, LABOR OR LIBERAL, EVER HELD THE VIEW THAT THEY COULD BE USED AS A SHOOTING RANGE.

I HAVE HEARD LIBERAL PARTY MINISTERS SAY THAT THE PROBLEM IS, THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO AGREE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF MEASURES TO ALLOW UNSUPERVISED AMATEUR SHOOTING IN NATIONAL PARKS BECAUSE THE TWO SHOOTERS PARTY REPRESENTATIVES HAVE GOT THE GOVERNMENT OVER A BARRELL IN THE UPPER HOUSE.

I SAY THAT IS A COP OUT.

YOU ONLY TO HAVE TO READ THE SPEECHES OF SOME THE CONSERVATIVES MEMBERS OF THE COALITION IN THE UPPER HOUSE TO SEE THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE SHOOTERS PARTY LEGISLATION.

THEY KNOW THAT THE IDEA OF RECREATIONAL SHOOTING IS MORALLY OFFENSIVE TO PEOPLE WHO LOVE NATIONAL PARKS.

THEY MUST KNOW THAT UNSUPERVISED, AMATUER, RECREATIONAL SHOOTING IS QUITE USELSS AT BEST FOR THE ERADICATION OF A POPULATION OF FERAL ANIMALS.

REALLY, WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS TAKING REVENGE AGAINST ALL THOSE PINKO, HIPPY TREE HUGGERS AND THE LABOR PEOPLE WHO NEARLY DOUBLED THE AREA OF THE NATIONAL PARK ESTATE IN NEW SOUTH WALES AFTER 1995.

DOUBLED THE AREA OF PARKS TO STILL JUST 10% OF THE STATE I MIGHT SAY, WHICH IS AROUND AVERAGE BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

THOSE PARKS WERE VISITED MORE THAN 35 MILLION TIMES LAST YEAR -- SO THERE SEEM TO BE QUITE A FEW PINKO HIPPIES OUT THERE WHO LIKE THEM.

HOW MANY OF THOSE VISITORS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO SHARE PARKS WITH SHOOTERS DO YOU RECKON?

I'D SAY MORE OR LESS NONE!

BEFORE THE **2011** ELECTION THE COALITION WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO BE RATHER REASSURING ABOUT NATIONAL PARKS.THE NATIONAL PARTY WERE QUIET.

YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT WHAT THE NATIONAL PARTY SAID BEFORE THE **2007** ELECTION TO UNDERSTAND THEIR REAL INTENTIONS.

THE NATIONALS WERE OFF THE LEASH THEN AND I LOOKED UP SOME OF THEIR PROMISES AGAIN THIS MORNING:

REPEAL THE DECLARATION OF PILLIGA NATIONAL PARK -- THERE ARE OTHER PARKS IN THEIR SIGHTS NOW, LIKE THE RIVER RED GUMS AND OLD GROWTH FORESTS ON THE NORTH COAST;

RIP UP AGREEMENTS FOR MARINE NATIONAL PARKS, ESPECIALLY THE SMALL SANCTUARY ZONES THAT ARE SO SUCCESSFUL IN THE RESTORATION OF FISH STOCKS;

CUT HUNDREDS OF JOBS IN NATIONAL PARKS;

SCRAP THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY BOB CARR TO RESTRAIN BROADSCALE CLEARING OF NATIVE VEGETATION;

UNDERMINE THE WILDERNESS LEGISLATION;

THIS IS THE AGENDA THAT THEY NOW PURSUE WITH DETERMINATION LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I COULDN'T FIND AN ELECTION PROMISE TO **DISMANTLE** THE WONDERFULLY SUCCESSFUL SYSTEM OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES, BUT THEY ARE HAVING A GO AT THAT FOR GOOD MEASURE.

OF COURSE THERE WAS NO WORD OF HUNTING IN NATIONAL PARKS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS BACKWARD-LOOKING WAR ON NATURE CONSERVATION IS NOT SUPPORTED BY MOST OF THE FARMERS AND LANDHOLDERS THAT I KNOW.

THE COAL SEAM GAS ISSUE REMINDS US INDEED THAT FARMERS LOVE THEIR LAND AND THEY WANT TO KEEP IT HEALTHY.

TO MAINTAIN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE HEALTH OF OUR ENVIRONMENT WE HAVE TO MANAGE OUR LANDSCAPE WELL ACROSS ALL TENURES.

WE NEED AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WE ALSO NEED THE PRODUCTIVE LAND IN BETWEEN TO BE MANAGED SO THAT IT BETTER PRESERVES BIODIVERSITY.

THE SCIENCE IS CLEAR BUT THE BACKWOODSMEN OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES UPPER HOUSE DON'T LIKE SCIENTISTS.

ESPECIALLY THE CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTISTS WHO TELL US THAT THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE IS THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE!

GOOD MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CERTAINLY REQUIRES EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF FERAL ANIMALS ACROSS LAND OF ALL TENURES AND THAT SOMETIMES DOES REQUIRE SYSTEMATIC PROFESSIONAL SHOOTING IN CAREFULLY CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES.

BUT THE DEMAND FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY USELESS UNSUPERVISED AMATEUR HUNTING --TO THE ENDANGERMENT OF ALL THE OTHER USERS OF NATIONAL PARKS -- COMES STRAIGHT OUT OF THE PLAYBOOK OF THE GUN LOBBY AND THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

THERE IS ACTUALLY A BILL PROMOTED BY THE U.S. GUN LOBBY TO UNDERMINE WILDERNESS LEGISLATION AND

MASSIVELY EXPAND HUNTING IN AMERICAN NATIONAL PARKS.
-- ITS CALLED *THE SPORTSMENS HERITAGE BILL* -- HELD UP IN
THE UNITED STATES SENATE RIGHT NOW.

OUR COUSINS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE TERRIBLE
PROBLEMS WITH THEIR MAD CULTURE OF GUNS BUT, IN
CONTRAST, HARDLY ANYBODY IN NEW SOUTH WALES
SUPPORTS THE PROMOTION OF A GUN CULTURE.

THE CITIZENS OF NEW SOUTH WALES FIND IT ABHORENT.

JOHN HOWARD HAS REMINDED US RECENTLY THAT THE
LEGISLATION HE AND TIM FISCHER SPONSORED AFTER THE
PORT ARTHUR MASSACRE IN 1996 HAS SUCCESSFULLY
SUBDUED THE CULTURE OF GUNS IN AUSTRALIA.

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OF NEW
SOUTH WALES DOING PROMOTING IT AGAIN?

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN?

WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?

