



Recreational Fishing Alliance Of NSW Inc

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING ALLIANCE OF NSW INC

**South Sydney AFA Clubhouse,
Cnr Hastings and Macquarie St, Chifley
Saturday 18th June 2011**

1. OPENING

Mal Poole welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 9.40am.

2. ATTENDANCE

Those in attendance where:

Stan Konstantaras (ANSA NSW), Joe Garufi (ANSA NSW), Peter Gibson (NSWCFA), Mal Poole (NSWFCA), Radge Diakiw (NSWCFA), Max Castle (ANSA NSW), Mel Brown (USFA NSW), Simon Trippe (USFA NSW).

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received from:

Michael Hirst (NSWFCA), Steve Williamson (PFIGA), Todd Young (PFIGA), Peter Saunders (USFA NSW), David Screen (NSWCFA)

4. GUESTS

Adrian Wayne (USFA NSW), John Burgess (ANSA National) John Naughton / Lesley Diver (SCMA)

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes presented and moved that they be accepted by Stan K, seconded Peter G. Stan K noted that minutes of previous meetings are online and Delegates and Committee should access them this way.

Available at following link <http://rfansw.com.au/Meetings.html#minutes>

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

All items moved to general business and agenda

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Stan gave an overview of the current project reporting and general RFA accounts.

Bank Balance as of 20/03/11		\$32,521.00**
Income	- RFA Fees	\$240.00
	- Project Fees	\$85,800.00
Expenses	- RFA Expenses	\$1343.00
	- Project Expenses	\$58,074.00
Closing Balance as of 17 th June 2011		\$59,144.00

** (RFA Operational Funds account for \$7,331.00 of Bank Balance)

Stan gave overview of finances taking into account cheques not presented as of 17/6/11 and include the following outstanding payments;

RFA General Payments: \$1492.00

RFA Project Payments: \$ 15,064.00

Closing balance at EOFY will be approximately \$42,588.00 and includes RFA Operational Funds of \$5324.00

RFA will claim 1/3 management fees from project L071 in the new financial year that will see the RFA Operation Funds grow to approx \$10,000 for the start of the 2011/2012 financial year.

Stan to circulate copies of RFA Expense Claim Form and Updated Project Expenditure Spreadsheet

8. DELEGATE REPORTS

The delegates present were asked to provide an overview on their group's activities as a way of updating the other delegates and as a way to further gather support for issues if needed.

ANSA NSW

ANSA NSW is has its new website up and operational.

ANSA NSW finally seen an increase in its membership numbers and Joe attributed this to the National Rule changes that included new rules on braid fishing lines and its new catch, measure and release divisions and record charts.

ANSA NSW is currently helping clubs at a local level with local fishing issues that include marine parks and GNS

Joe G gave an overview of the Angel Ring Project and where the project is heading.

NSWCFA

NSWCFA recently held its meeting in Tamworth.

Peter G indicated that the South West Anglers had left the NSWCFA and the Central Acclimatisation Society was considering leaving.

Peter G also indicated that there was concern within some members of the NSW CFA overs its supposed political affiliations. Discussion occurred within the meeting and it was agreed that anyone who represented fisher's interest in the government needed to be supported to a certain level.

NSWFCA

NSWFCA recently held its meeting and are looking at a review of its competitions, how to encourage younger people to get into fishing and modernizing the Association.

Mal also mentioned that he had raised the issue of NSWFCA's lack of contribution to statewide fishing issues and representations and how to build this back up again. Mal will be following this up with the NSWFCA Committee.

NSW USFA

NSWUSFA main focus is attracting social members to its ranks.

NSWUSFA has a new magazine.

NSWUSFA spoke on the issue of boat strikes to spearfishes and the issue of a spearfishers flag
(Note: Agenda Item)

Peter S mentioned that Black Cod and GNS, plus fair and equitable access in Marine Parks as the biggest issues facing spearfishers.

NSWUSFA are working on their draft spearfishing accreditation process and that it may ultimately become an accredited activity.

PFIGA

PFIGA are holding their AGM in Narooma this weekend

9. AGENDA ITEMS

9 a. Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay Marine Park

Overall a good outcome and we all have a chance to re-draft the SI and JBMP and even the Lord Howe Is MP zones.

The RFA will review its original submissions and update them and have them re-submitted when required. The RFA will work with the USFA, ANSANSW and NSWFCFA on these plans. Essentially we will be seeking a further roll back to the original 2002/2003 consultative period that formed the foundations of these marine parks. We all accepted the original plans, but with more science and research has been completed we need to review all the literature and define our own "baseline" and choose our own "experts".

Discussions focused on accepting some form of sanctuary zones and the need to come up with a flexible approach linked to the IUNC (International Union for Conservation of Nature) policy's.

With regards to the GNS within these marine parks the RFA needs to challenge the science behind the GNS that has led to restrictions based around this outdated science.

RFA needs a cohesive plan by the end of July and we needed to focus on land degradation, loss of habitat and on land activities

Discussion occurred around the LHIMP and the spearfishers really to get involved in this and seek RFA support

9 b. Grey Nurse Shark and Black Cod Update

Adrian Wayne and Mel Brown (NSW USFA) gave those present an up update on history of the GNS situation and the impacts to all anglers over the years based on the available science at the time. In 1999 with the help of SCUBA, NSW Fisheries identified approximately 330 GNS and only looked in known locations i.e. known habitats. In 2002 with the help of the spearfishers

more research was undertaken which again looked at known locations and some limited unknown locations and in adverse conditions and approximately 450 GNS were located.

Further research was undertaken once again and approx. 1300 GNS were located, however researchers did not look Sth of Sydney, the count did not include juvenile GNS and spearfishers were not included in the count.

GNS counts increased as the methodology improved since those very first counts. The ability to find sharks in known habitats has also increased, however researchers are still failing to look outside the box and consider the following

1. Counting juvenile GNS
2. Counting GNS in shallow areas (ie: impact zones in gutters as highlighted in many spearfishing DVD's on the market)
3. Counting GNS in deeper locations considering the PAT tagging results and early gamefishing records from NSW indicate GNS inhabit deeper water locations
4. Experienced divers and spearfishers need to be included in counts
5. Anecdotal locations need to be investigated

Discussions occurred around the science and its credibility in determining population models and quasi - extinction conclusions, including the exclusion of deep-water (greater than 40m) and shallow water (less than 5 meters) locations in the counts.

Discussions also occurred around the fact that many marine parks that were established in NSW had resulting closures based on these early, flawed counts to supposedly protect the GNS. It was all based on early preliminary science and resulted in far greater restrictions in marine parks and many inconsistencies between marine parks. Under the current marine park review these restrictions must be reviewed in conjunction with the outcome from the current GNS review

The methodology of the 2010 research studying behavioral response of GNS to baits and lures was discussed, and criticism were made on the method of lowering bait into the immediate area very close to a GNS. This is not the way recreational fish, baits are not intentionally lowered in front of GNS

The tone of the discussion was suggestive and misleading. Everyone present agreed that it was suggestive and that the NSW Government has not put together a good case for any increased protection.

Outcomes:

1. Recreational anglers need to challenge mortality rates. Serious doubts surround the science; especially the 12 know mortalities that are quoted in the discussion paper (DP). Of the 3 counts we have seen a 505 increase from the 1st to the 2nd and then a 250% increase from the 2nd to 3rd count. It is not known if NSW Fisheries has any veterinarian scientists that are able to qualify the mortality rates and what the current mortality rate is. Recreational anglers need to seek clarification on this point – Has NSW Fisheries got the diagnostic expertise to diagnose cause of death of any GNS and if not a suitable independent aquatic veterinarian need to be involved. NSW Fisheries are saying that GNS are dying of such and such due to hooks, but there have never been any pathological papers published on the hook wounds, and also,

basically they are not qualified to determine what the cause of death was - that is an act of veterinary science, and only a qualified veterinarian really can do that.

2. Recreational anglers need to push for the banning of set lining for wobbygongs or at minimum require 100% on board observers and VMS to determine setting locations and interactions or incidental captures. Recreational anglers have accepted a zero bag limit on wobbygong and commercial anglers need to do the same.

3. GNS habitat rules within NSW marine parks need to be reviewed under the current scientific review being undertaken in NSW.

4. More funding needs to be made invested to find more GNS and community research needs to be encouraged, programs like Capreef need to be considered as models for community based education.

5. More circle hook research needs to be applied to determine hooking locations on GNS. Discussions occurred around the possibility of make known GNS habitats "circle hook only"

6. The research surrounding GNS behavior to baits and lures needs to be revisited, with the emphasis on reviewing current and acceptable fishing methods employed by recreational anglers who do not intentionally lower baits in front of GNS. The flawed research showed that a GNS will eat a bait if it is lowered into its immediate proximity

7. More education is needed in training fishers in appropriate C&R methods when encountering GNS. "A Hooked Shark Is Not A Dead Shark"

Actions:

1. Re-establish www.greynurses shark.com.au and build an online submission form – Stan to Coordinate
2. Establish approved format for submission to be counted as an individual response, similar to the savejb and savesi websites- Mal Poole to investigate
3. Seek and independent researcher to look at the population modeling employed by the current researchers – John Burgess / Mal Poole.
4. Aim to have site completed and up and running by late July 2011.

9 c. Membership

New Members:

South West Anglers have written to the RFA expressing their wish to join the RFA directly. Currently the SWA is a member of the NSWCFCA. Mal P indicated that he has been approached informally about this and has spoken to the President of the NSWCFCA. The NSWCFCA was concerned but Mal P indicated that the SWA was intent on leaving the NSWCFCA based on the fact that the regions so was large it needed additional representation at a state level.

The RFA members present discussed the application and agreed that we did not need any more fragmentation in NSW and agreed to accept the membership of the SWA to the RFA as full members.

Stan K moved motion to accept SWA membership application, seconded my Max C, and passed unanimously.

Advertising:

Joe G will provide the RFA members with his plans for increasing membership and maintaining constant contact with the members of NSW. Joe G has developed a plan for advertising, online forum discussion and some other resources available to the RFA.

RFA Contact List:

Peter G will combine of all of current email contact lists and will continue to compile **Recfisher** email bulletin, but needs support from the members for content.

Members Services:

Peter G has almost completed a “Public & Media Relations Guide for Fishing Clubs” that will outline on how clubs and association handle the media and public relations issues they may be presented with.

9 d. Access Project Update

Stan K gave an overview of the projects progress to date.

The project has a new website www.nswangleraccess.com.au

Stan K outlined all the progress Christopher Robertson had made to date including

1. Drafting of the Project Manual on “How to Progress a Site for Reservation for Recreational Fishing”. Currently this 20 page draft will act as a guideline that will be part of the website “how to guide for clubs”.
2. Chris has lodged 6 submissions to date covering fresh and saltwater locations as part of the project . These include almost 80% of the Priority 1 Sites the Steering Committee had approved.
3. The site list had grown to over 30 sites that Chris is working on and that the Steering Committee has selected and Priority 1, Priority 2, Evolving and Future Sites in NSW

Stan K, Mal P and Peter G who all sit on the Steering Committee commented that Chris was doing a great job and we were happy with his progress.

Peter G also commented on the amount of support work Mal P has undertaken as part of the project and in his dealing with Chris. Peter G recommended that the RFA assist Mal P with a set fee for any future part or full days that he may be required to participate in as part of the project as part of the RFA management fee for the project.

9 e. Future Leaders Project

Mal P gave an overview of the current progress of the Federal Future Leaders Project that the RFA of NSW has a supportive role in.

The project is being run by Sunfish QLD and is looking at the best way of developing and finding leaders.

The RFA will be focusing on finding participants and providing mentors.

Max C commented that he was concerned that the RFA committee was taking on too much work and asked the members to assist in projects like these.

9f. Post-Election Roundup.

Discussion occurred in relation to the recent NSW State Election results. It was agreed by all that it will take some time for the current government to find its feet and direction.

A new department had been formed "NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) see Attachment.

9g. Federal Recreational Fishing Roundtable

John Burgess from ANSA National gave the members present an update on the recent federal government round table meeting held in Canberra. The expectation was that recreational anglers are to be partners in the industry and have to deliver outcomes. The expectation was there that was a need for a peak body in Australia, however it will have to be self-funded.

Discussion occurred around the commonwealth MP process and the SWMP being planned. Most participants agreed that it was well handled and will have little impact on recreational angling in the West. It remains to be seen if the east coast process is handled the same way and discussions will re-open in Dec 2011.

Adrian W (NSWUSFA) was concerned that spearfishers would be impacted by the new C&R zones which will mean they will be excluded. He noted that we need to be mindful that spearfishing occurs in the 50-200m zone in remote offshore reefs and sea mounts. Mel B (NSWUSFA) is also concerned that they will follow NSW MP Plans and that spearfishers will not benefit from catch and release or any other passive recreational line fishing regulation.

Simon T (NSWUSFA) is to follow up with WA spearfishers to see what their reaction has been and is also concerned that the federal spearfishing body, the AUF is not presenting spearfishers views on this roundtable. John B suggested that NSWUSFA chase up Recfish as to the status of their application for membership and tackle the issue of representation through this channel.

9g. Black Cod Update

Mel B (NSWUSFA) gave an overview of the released black cod recovery plan and the fact that the USFA is not entirely happy with. One of the reasons is that spearfishing is not one of the key

threatening processes and more community research is needed. The USFA has its own register of black cod sightings and in the past 2 months have found 75 black cod in 37 known locations ranging from juveniles to 50kg fish.

9i. General Business off the floor

- Divers Flag

Adrian W attended the most recent RVAG and spoke about the need that a new flag is needed for spearfishers due to the most recent cases of prop strikes to spearfishers off Sydney. RVAG has agreed to prepare a discussion paper to look at the issues.

The RFA position is that we will support the USFA and push for an education program and implementation of new flag rules for flags in boats and on floats for spearfishers within NSW.

- Meroo Lake and Nelson Lagoon POM

More localised involvement is needed on these issues at Nelson Lagoon. Currently there is access, but the potential to ban any powered craft in the future is very real and we need to be aware of any plans.

There are also issues with the resumption of the sea bed at Meroo by NPWS that may leave to more restrictive access into the future.

Currently the RFA is awaiting a response from the Minister to revoke Meroo and change the Nelsons Lagoon POM.

- Recfish

John Burgess gave a short report on the most recent Recfish meeting he attended. The USFA was accepted as a full member to Recfish which was a good sign of Recfish opening up their membership base. There is a meeting in July to determine the future of Recfish and John mentioned that groups like GFAA, AFTA and Sunfish need to unite with Recfish as a single peak body.

- Sydney Harbour Speed restrictions

Max C gave the members an update on the recent and upcoming discussions into speed restrictions in Sydney Harbour and that he was going to seek some additional input from the RFA members on this.

- Coroners Update

The recent Coronial Inquiry went well, with Mal P giving the members an update on how the day went. Jessie W from MMM (Multicultural Marketing and Media) giving evidence on behalf of the RFA. Findings are due to be handed down on the 15 July 2011.

- Constitution

Stan K spoke about the need to update the Constitution to change the payment methods to include EFT (electronic funds transfer) for specific projects. Stan K is to consult with Fair Trading on this issue and have a motion ready for discussion at AGM in Nov 11.

- RFA Contractors

Mal p spoke about the success of Chris Robertson as our contracted RFA Access Officer and Mal P is to prepare submissions for RFA Fisheries Liaison Officer, Secretariat and Safety Officer as contractor positions. These are to be completed with a view to present to the Minister.

- Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority Presentation

John N and Lesley D gave a presentation on the “Protecting Your Waterway” initiative. They discussed why we need to protect the waterways, key impacts and how boaters and fishers can help.

There will be more community group presentations in Sept/Oct/Nov of this year with the planned project launched in Dec 11.

Resource material will accompany the education campaign, see attached.

Take Charge of Your Discharge

- ◆ If possible, fit a holding tank & dispose of vessel waste at an approved pump out facility.
- ◆ Use portable toilets in smaller boats.
- ◆ Regularly maintain and clean your bilge.

Be wake aware Help Stop Erosion.

- ◆ Continually assess your boat wash.
- ◆ Trim your boat appropriately.
- ◆ Evenly distribute your load- passengers, gear etc.

Your Waterway Needs You!

If you are interested in voluntary work, being involved in marine debris clean up days or if you would like to become an aquatic champion, call the Sydney Metro CMA on 98956274 for more information.

HOTLINE number to report destruction of seagrass, mangroves etc, call **1800 000 800**.

For more information on **AQUATIC PESTS**, visit the website: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/pests-diseases.

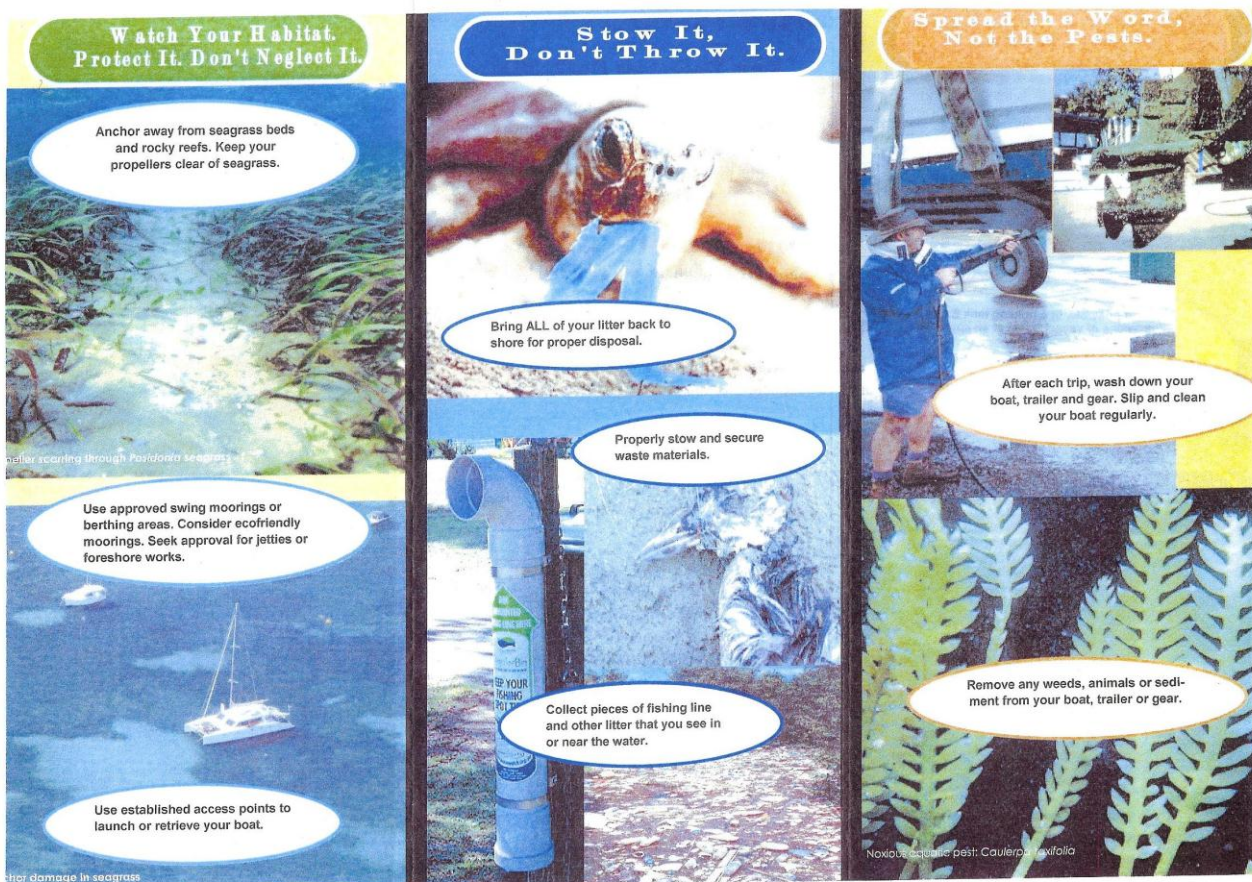
For more information on **APPROVED PUMP OUT STATIONS**, visit the website: www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/pump-outs

Logos: CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY, BIA, NSW, CMA, Industry & Investment, NSW Maritime.

This project is supported by the NSW Coastal Catchment Management Authorities and partners through the funding from the Australian Government's Caring For Our Country.

Photos on front cover courtesy of David Harcalt and NSW Maritime.

PROTECT YOUR WATERWAY



With no more general business Mal Poole closed the meeting at 4.55 pm

Stan Konstantaras
 RFA of NSW Secretary
 17th July 2011

Abbreviations:

- NSW DII – Department of Industry and Investment – Fisheries NSW**
- ACoRF – NSW Advisory Council on Recreational Fishing**
- RFSTEC- Recreational Fishing Saltwater Trust Expenditure Committee**
- RFH – Recreational Fishing Haven**
- NPWS- National Parks and Wildlife**
- FRDC – Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**
- LMPA – Land and Property Management Authority**
- RVAG – Recreational Vessel Advisory Committee**



**Trade & Investment,
Regional Infrastructure
& Services**

Mr Malcolm Poole
Chairman
Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW
PO Box 328
Matraville NSW 2036

3 May 2011

Dear Mr Poole

Introducing the NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS)

On 3 April 2011, the Premier, the Hon Barry O'Farrell MP announced the full Ministry of the newly formed NSW Government which will deliver on the Government's priority areas and improve services for all of NSW - both metropolitan and regional.

A number of important structural changes to the NSW Public Sector have been made. There are now nine major clusters (Principal Departments) led by Directors General. Each Principal Department is made up of separate Departments, Authorities and Offices.

The Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services (DTIRIS) is one of the nine new Principal Department cluster groupings. The key functional areas included in this new cluster are provided on the attached list.

Our new Principal Department represents the engine room of the NSW economy and is designed to focus and strengthen NSW government services to provide maximum benefit to the State and to provide a strong customer service culture in all areas of service delivery.

I can report that work has already started to implement the changes smoothly and efficiently. I will advise you of further developments as they are worked through, including senior appointments.

For many of our stakeholders and clients, the points of contact with the Department will remain unchanged and we will endeavour to ensure focussed, specialist expertise continues to be provided to all our clients and customers. We will continue to provide high quality services that benefit from a wider base of expertise and experience across a larger organisation and look to streamline and provide efficiencies wherever possible.

Key contacts while we establish our new organisation remain as follows:

- Barry Buffier (Trade, investment, tourism, gaming and racing, and the arts) Ph: 02 9338 6810/ barry.buffier@industry.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
Level 6, 201 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: 02 8289 3999 Fax: 02 9286 3208
www.industry.nsw.gov.au

- George Davey (Primary industries) Ph: 02 8289 3944 / george.davey@industry.nsw.gov.au
- David Harriss (Water) Ph: 02 8281 7777 / david.harriss@water.nsw.gov.au
- Jim Booth (Catchment Management) Ph: 02 9895 7372 / jim.booth@environment.nsw.gov.au
- Graham Harding (Crown Lands) Ph: 02 4920 5001/ graham.harding@lpma.nsw.gov.au
- Alan Coutts (Food Authority) Ph: 02 9741 4732 / alan.coutts@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
- Nick Roberts (Forests NSW) Ph: 02 9407 4273 / nick.roberts@sf.nsw.gov.au
- Mark Duffy (Minerals and energy) Ph: 02 8281 7402 / mark.duffy@dwe.nsw.gov.au
- Wendy Stamp (Policy, governance and communications) Ph: 02 8289 3906 / wendy.stamp@industry.nsw.gov.au
- Jeannine Biviano (Corporate services) Ph: 02 6391 3319 / jeannine.biviano@industry.nsw.gov.au

I look forward to working with you and all of our customers and stakeholders to provide you with the best possible services.

Yours sincerely,



RICHARD SHELDRAKE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Enc

Major functional areas within the Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services cluster

Agriculture	Mineral resources
Fisheries	Energy
Forests	Biofuels
Food security and agricultural sustainability	Regional development
Biosecurity	State development
Crown lands management	Small business
Soil conservation services	International markets and trade
Catchment management	Investment attraction
Water management	
Marine parks	Tourism
Rural affairs and rural service delivery	Major events
Rural assistance	Arts
Food regulation and safety	Liquor, gaming and racing

Statutory Authorities and Boards

- Catchment Management Authorities
- Cobar Water Board
- Game Council of NSW
- Livestock Health and Pest Authorities
- Marine Parks Authority
- NSW Rural Assistance Authority
- Sydney Catchment Authority
- Wild Dog Destruction Board

- Casino, Liquor & Gaming Control Authority
- NSW Food Authority
- Screen NSW
- Tourism NSW

Cultural Institutions

- Art Gallery of NSW
- Australian Museum
- Sydney Opera House
- Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum)
- State Library of NSW

Public Trading Enterprise

- Forests NSW

State Owned Corporations

- Energy Corporations
 - Ausgrid
 - Delta Electricity
 - Endeavour Energy
 - Eraring Energy
 - Essential Energy
 - Macquarie Generation
 - Transgrid

- State Water Corporation