

https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fpolitics%2Fshooters-in-secret-talks-with-nsw-coalition-over-legislative-support%2Fnews-story%2F9955ee61499c9f0ef90753698a207d20&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium

Shooters in secret talks with NSW Coalition over legislative support



NSW Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party leader Robert Borsak. Picture: AAP

-
- **EXCLUSIVE**

YONI BASHAN

NSW POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

[@yoni_bashan](#)

-
- **AN HOUR AGO** JUNE 17, 2020
 - **NO COMMENTS**

The Berejiklian government has entered secret negotiations with the NSW Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party to form an alliance to will give the Coalition more numbers in the upper house and allow more legislation to be made into law.

The Australian can reveal that NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet, will meet with SFF MPs on Thursday to continue negotiating a compact drawn up by the conservative crossbench party.

A spokesman for Mr Perrottet confirmed negotiations were continuing and said the NSW government was “always willing to talk to other parties and MPs to ensure the best outcome for the people of NSW”.

READ NEXT



JOHN LETHLEAN

[Let the choux revival begin. Again](#)

JOHN LETHLEAN

SFF leader Robert Borsak told The Australian he was approached by Mr Perrottet last month and asked about mending the fractious relationship.

According to Mr Borsak, who has voiced his dissatisfaction with the government on numerous occasions, Mr Perrottet asked for a list of projects and requests the government could address as a show of good faith.

The compact document, obtained by The Australian, is both lengthy and bold in its list of requests in diverse areas such as regional health, the economy, infrastructure spending and parliamentary accountability.

The SFF states throughout the document that its concerns are largely focused on regional and rural NSW — areas they say have been long neglected by the Berejiklian government and its predecessors.

The compact calls for the immediate cancellation of the Powerhouse Museum relocation and “other wasteful projects” that can have their funding redirected to regional infrastructure. It names dam projects, hospitals, ambulance stations and funding for roads as priorities.

The document also cites the need for a special commission of inquiry into water management, and for a recalibration of salaries awarded to top public servants.

Mr Borsak told The Australian the government was unlikely to commit to all of the proposals set out in the SFF’s compact, although he said some line items were simpler than others to deliver and agree upon.

“The easier stuff we expect immediately,” he said. “Once we see that stuff being done, we’d be happy to consider (supporting the government). But our support is not unconditional.”

Mr Borsak said he’d already met with Attorney-General Mark Speakman and Finance Minister Damien Tudehope in relation to the government’s proposal. Thursday’s meeting with the Premier and Treasurer will escalate this dialogue.

Mr Borsak said he could never guarantee his party's co-operation with the government on all issues, but that delivery of priority projects would soften existing tensions and ensure a more collaborative approach.

He said currently the party was mostly unsupportive of the government's legislative agenda.

The SFF holds five seats in parliament: three in the lower house and two in the upper house. The government relies on crossbench support to move bills through the upper house.

YONI BASHAN



STATE POLITICAL REPORTER

Yoni Bashan is The Australian's NSW political correspondent. He began his career at The Sunday Telegraph and has won multiple awards for crime writing and specialist investigations. In 2014 he was seconded on a... [Read more](#)

Share this article

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Email](#)

READ NEXT

NO COMMENTS

You can now update the display or screen name associated with your Subscriber account. [Click here for details and guidelines.](#)

Reader comments on this site are moderated before publication to promote lively, but civil and respectful debate. We encourage your comments but submitting one does not guarantee publication. You can read our comment guidelines [here](#). If you believe a comment has been rejected in error, email comments@theaustralian.com.au and we'll investigate. Please ensure you include the email address you use to log in so we can locate your comment.

Hi Jennifer