The Country Party was formed to represent the rural and regional people of Australia, who until this time were largely ignored by the Nationalists and the Australian Labor Party that both stood largely for metropolitan voters. The Country Party held the balance of power within Parliament and remained committed to its rural and regional constituents.
Page initiated many long term social and economic plans that would benefit Australia. These changes include but are not limited to:

- Establishment of the ‘Rural Credits Department’
- Creation of the ‘Council for Scientific Industrial Research’, the predecessor of today’s CSIRO
- The ‘Transport Advisory Council’
- The ‘Australian Agricultural Council’
IRONY OF FATE.

Mr. Hughes on his Northern political tour to strengthen the Nationalists against the Country Party meets with an accident requiring the skilled surgical aid of the Country Party Leader. Of course it is cheerfully given. But the Prime Minister has yet to advocate the proposed new northern State.
Cameron became leader of the Country Party following the resignation of Page who had quarrelled with Robert Menzies then leader of the United Australia Party. His time as leader was brief and due to a falling out between himself and his party Cameron resigned as leader.
WILLIAM ARTHUR FADDEN
COUNTRY PARTY LEADER  16/10/1940
– 26/03/1958
Fadden was renowned for his role as Treasurer and handed down a record 11 budgets. He took on the role of acting Prime Minister for long periods during Menzies’ absence as well as becoming Prime Minister for 40 days after Menzies resigned.

Fadden was instrumental in developing the ‘Wool Sales Deduction Scheme’, implemented in 1950/1951 which helped curb inflation and benefitted farmers.

Fadden’s brain child, the ‘Commonwealth Development Bank’ was conceived in 1957.
JOHN MCEWEN
COUNTRY PARTY LEADER
26/03/1958 - 01/02/1971
PRIME MINISTER FROM 19/12/1967 – 10/01/1968 EARNED THE NICKNAME ‘NOIR’ FROM ROBERT MENZIES AS WELL AS THE NAME ‘BLACK JACK’
McEwen promoted an economic system of high tariff protection for primary industry, which would later acquire the name of ‘McEwenism’. The death of Harold Holt in 1967 saw McEwen sworn in as Prime Minister. Began live sheep export trade in 1960.
JOHN DOUGLAS ANTHONY
LEADER 02/02/1971 – 17/01/1984

ON THE 02/05/1975 THE COUNTRY PARTY’S NAME WAS CHANGED TO ‘THE NATIONAL COUNTRY PARTY OF AUSTRALIA’ AND TO ‘NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA’ IN 16/10/1982
Anthony signalled support for mining and the export of Australian minerals while still maintaining continued support for farming and regional communities.

Anthony created a youthful and energetic image for the party. Anthony also became very involved in reconstruction of the dairy industry as well as rural reconstruction.
Anthony was Deputy Prime Minister between 1971 – 1972 and 1975 – 1983. He was instrumental in the implementation of ‘wheat quotas’ and the creation of the ‘Australian Wool Committee’. Upgrading Australia’s abattoirs to stimulate a growing export market became another of the party’s achievements whilst Anthony was leader.
ACTING PRIME MINISTER ANTHONY RUNNING THE COUNTRY FROM HIS CARAVAN
Sinclair held many portfolios as a member of the National Party including; Minister for Primary Industry, Minister for Commerce and Minister for Defence. Sinclair was leader during the tumultuous time of Joh Bjelke-Peterson and his ‘Joh for PM’ and ‘Joh for Canberra’ campaigns which were largely blamed for the election loss in 1987.
Following the loss of the 1987 election, and in the aftermath of the Joh for Canberra campaign, the ‘Committee of Review into the Future Direction of the National Party of Australia’ was established. Chaired by Peter Nixon, the committee produced an 86 page report on changes that could be made to create a more robust and sustainable party.
The National Party of Australia

We believe:

We believe all Australians should have an equal opportunity to contribute to and share in the wealth of our nation.

We believe in freedom of speech, movement and philosophy. We uphold freedom of religious activity, freedom of association and assembly and equality and justice for all before the law.

We believe the constitutional monarchy is a rich and practical heritage and we uphold the Westminster system of parliamentary democracy with laws decided by our elected representatives.

We believe in preserving the three tiers of government — Federal, State and Local — and in the decentralisation of responsibility.

We believe in Free Enterprise, private ownership and minimum government interference in industry, commerce, production and distribution.

We believe that initiative should be rewarded and that those prepared to work hardest should reap rewards that match their efforts.

We believe in the need to lower taxes, reduce the size of government and encourage individual economic freedom.

We believe in the balanced development of our economy and the decentralisation of population and services.

We believe in the family as the basis of a strong and stable society.

We believe that the very young, the aged and the disadvantaged are entitled to the support of society and should receive the help they need to live in comfort and dignity.

We believe that every Australian has a right to the best possible education.
Gained leadership of the National Party following Sinclair’s resignation. Maintained the role of the Opposition Shadow Minister for Trade and Resources during his time as leader. Held strong views on lowering interest rates and diminishing crime. Resigned following the 1990 election when the Hawke government was re-elected.
TIMOTHY ANDREW FISCHER
NATIONAL PARTY LEADER
10/04/1990 – 01/07/1999
Fischer became leader of the Nationals after defeating an attempt by Ian Sinclair to regain the leadership. Fischer showed great leadership and redirected the National Party of the time. In 1996 the Coalition won the election. Fischer’s leadership was further demonstrated when he supported proposed measures to tighten gun laws following the Port Arthur Massacre. Fischer’s Vietnam Veteran status gave him much credibility and respect.
Fischer secured a guarantee that the privatisation of Telstra would not reduce service to rural communities. The new headquarters of the National Party ‘McEwen House’ was opened in Canberra on 08/11/1996 by Lady McEwen.
John Anderson was elected Nationals leader following Tim Fischer’s decision to step down. Anderson created assurances that through the privatisation of Telstra services would not be cut and prices would not rise in comparison to metropolitan areas. Anderson helped engage Australia in various free trade agreements and led the party in Coalition through a time of improved economic conditions and strong employment.
MARK ANTHONY JAMES VAILE
NATIONALS LEADER
23/06/2005 – 03/12/2007
Mark Vaile becomes Deputy PM to Prime Minister John Howard on 06/07/2005. As Trade Minister Vaile led negotiations for the free trade agreement with the USA and China. After swapping portfolios with Warren Truss, Vaile becomes Minister for Transport and Regional Services, with involvement in the ‘Auslink’ plan which aimed to generate employment and create needed infrastructure.
MARK VAILE
REGIONAL ELECTION COMMERCIAL
WARREN ERROL TRUSS
NATIONAL S LEADER
07/12/2007 - CURRENT