

# Planning changes for shooting ranges



Planning & Infrastructure



## Frequently Asked Questions

October 2013

### WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT EXHIBITING PLANNING CHANGES THAT AFFECT SHOOTING RANGES?

- The NSW Government is inviting feedback from the community on proposed changes to provide better planning for outdoor shooting ranges across NSW.
- Shooting ranges are a specific land-use and it is important there are clear and consistent planning controls for these facilities.
- The proposed changes:
  - ensure that existing lawful shooting ranges are a permitted use in local council plans
  - support the improved integration of existing lawful shooting ranges with surrounding areas by making ranges a permitted use in adjacent non-urban land.
- You can provide feedback on the changes being proposed up to **Monday, 4 November 2013** at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals)

### WHY ARE THESE CHANGES BEING PROPOSED?

- Over the last few years NSW councils have been updating their existing local environmental plans (LEPs) into a new Statewide planning format.
- This has led to an inconsistent approach to the zonings of shooting ranges in some council areas, and may cause complications for the ongoing operation of existing lawful shooting ranges.
- In addition, the Land and Environment Court found that 'range danger areas' which provide a safety buffer for the shooting range, form part of the shooting range, and therefore, should also be appropriately zoned and subject to a formal development assessment process.
- The proposed changes will make clear that existing ranges are permitted within the zone in which they are located, and also responds to the court decision by allowing them to better integrate with the surrounding area.

### WHAT SHOOTING RANGES ARE AFFECTED BY THESE PLANNING CHANGES?

- The changes apply to any existing lawful outdoor shooting range across NSW.
- Outdoor shooting ranges are recreational facilities for **controlled** shooting catering for different types of firearms, such as pistols and rifles.
- Lawful shooting ranges are approved by the NSW Firearms Registry
- The changes only apply to outdoor recreational shooting ranges – not indoor shooting facilities.

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### WHAT MUST HAPPEN BEFORE A SHOOTING RANGE CAN EXPAND INTO SURROUNDING LAND?

- The changes make existing lawful shooting ranges a permitted use on adjoining land, if that adjoining land is zoned Primary Production, Rural Landscape, Public Recreation, Private Recreation, Environmental Conservation and Environmental Management.
- The shooting range, including the range danger area, can only expand onto adjoining land:
  - which is owned by the shooting range or has the consent of the adjoining landowner, and
  - if it has been approved by the local council, following a detailed merit assessment, and
  - if it has been approved by the NSW Police Force Firearms Registry.

The changes do not mean the range has an automatic right to expand on this land.

### HOW DOES A COUNCIL CONSIDER AN EXPANSION APPLICATION?

- A shooting club would have to submit a development application to the local council if it wished to expand its activities, including the range danger area.
- The council will advertise the development application and notify neighbours, to enable community input to the decision-making process.
- The council would consider the development application, the suitability of the site for expansion, and the issues associated with these activities such as noise, safety, amenity and environmental impacts and then determine the application.
- The NSW Police Force would also have to approve the shooting range.
- The NSW Police Force provides a Range Users Guide which indicates the requirements for existing and proposed new shooting ranges at: [www.police.nsw.gov.au/services/firearms/ranges](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/services/firearms/ranges)

### HOW WILL THESE CHANGES COME INTO EFFECT?

- Once the exhibition concludes and submissions have been assessed, the Minister for Planning & Infrastructure will consider all submissions and decide whether to proceed by way of an amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- To find out more, including our policy on publishing submissions, go to [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals) , call 1300 305 695