

SUBMISSION,RE SEPP Infrastructure Amendment.

Shooting Ranges

Salient points.

(1)SECURITY OF TENURE

Currently we have the land used by KARIONG REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX (Inc.) at lot 0 LI 315720 Bambara Road Kariong NSW 2250 under license 315720 to The Department Of Primary Industries on behalf of Crown Lands.

According to the Crown Lands Website

(a) A License is issued to land holders who wish to make TEMPORARY use of adjoining Crown Land.

(b) Leases should be issued to interested parties who are going to make substantial investment in the land concerned.

As a recreational non profit group we have made substantial investment over a long period for facilities and safety needs.

(c) It is felt that a long term lease with the concessional rates that are given to non -profit sporting groups should apply to us.

(2) UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT FOR OUR SPORT FROM GOVERNMENT

Regulations which purport to be aimed at stemming illegal use and criminal use of firearms, have made it more difficult for law abiding shooters to pursue their sport .

We feel the agencies responsible should communicate more with and get a feel for the legal activities of recreational sporting shooters.

(In much of the same way the Department of Planning has done with its workshop).

(3) IMPORTANT COMMUNITY USE OF OUR RANGE

Our range facilities are used by N.S.W. Police Force for their compulsory training of personnel and they have invested considerable sums to tailor our facilities for their needs.

There are no other suitable facilities available between Sydney and Newcastle.

Closure of Kariong Regional Shooting Complex (Inc.) would have a detrimental effect on the Police training programme.

Agreement with fire fighting services are in place, for our site to be used as a staging area in time of emergency (bush fires).

Additionally the range is used by 311 Squadron Cadet Corps for an introductory firearms handling course.

(4) ACCEPTANCE OF OUR ACTIVITIES BY NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE..

At the workshop on the 8/11/13 facilitated by **THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING** much comment was made about the encroachment of Suburbia on long established (some for over 100 years) shooting ranges.

In our particular case NPWS have encroached on our range and have stated in writing that they would -- given the chance acquire our range and deny us access.

This confrontational attitude needs to be addressed so that we do not feel threatened with closure every time our License or lease comes due for renewal.

the suggestion is made that the safety zone area associated with any shooting range should be zoned the highest Conservation zone (which I think is E1) and, in our case where we are surrounded by national park, the surrounding area zoned E2 as our safety zone area forms a refuge for the flora and fauna the critters can escape into it from the surrounding area where the general public is wandering about in the national park. At the very least we should be a permitted in holding within national parks and the national parks should recognise us as a higher category environmental area within the park and, as a result, welcome our presence.

Your deepest consideration of these matters and inclusion of their intent in any final draft is sought as a matter of urgency

Yours Faithfully, on behalf of the 1500 recreational sporting shooters who use KARIONG REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX (Inc.)

Signed.
Kenneth Hoste.
Hon Treasurer
For the Committee KARIONG REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX (Inc.)