

The Port Macquarie Rifle Clubs main area of concerns are:

- Tenure - the Port Macquarie Rifle Club (PMRC) has occupied this site for over 113 years, over this period of time, obviously the demography of Port Macquarie has changed significantly, the Port Macquarie Rifle Range is less than 6 kilometres from the town centre, this is putting a number of strains on the Rifle Range regarding encroaching development, the most prominent of these being the development of the Port Macquarie Airport, first sod turned in 1953, who's runway has recently been extended to allow larger jet aircraft access, the flight path lies over the danger area of the full-bore range. PMRC has always recognised the significant importance of the airport to the area and has allowed land to be ceded for airport development three times and each time done so on the understanding that shooting rights over the danger area be upheld or that relocation of the range be implemented. With the recent extensions our shooting rights have now come into question and we would hope that the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and the Port Macquarie Hastings Council would assist PMRC with relocating the Port Macquarie Rifle Range. Likewise to include in the SEPP that if development is approved by local councils that affects shooting complexes the councils be required to relocate the existing shooting amenity to a suitable location.

As you can see, tenure is the largest threat to what is the third oldest rifle club in Australia and has been a facility that has trained state, national and international competitors and has attracted international teams to regional areas of NSW adding significantly to tourism, economy, sport and recreation.

- Loss of sporting amenities for disabled - as a number of our club members are disabled or elderly and we have an ongoing inquiry from both people of this nature, in particular but also able bodied sports men and women. The loss of an amenity such as ours through the necessary planning of a facility like an airport, PMRC feels should be of great concern to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), PMRC understands that we are not alone in this situation and that many other shooting ranges in NSW are facing similar pressures. It is our suggestion that DPI includes in its changes to the SEPP the provision for currently lawful shooting ranges the be able to have their permitted use transferred to a new location to preserve the amenities for future generations
- Protected zoning, PMRC would suggest that the zoning for current shooting ranges not only be changed to allow a shooting range but that they go a step further and restrict other activities or create a new protected zoning that could not be encroached upon in the future
- Lack of communication, PMRC feels there has been a lack of communication between government bodies, particularly infrastructure and councils regarding shooting ranges as is evidenced by the problems now being experienced. We would urge greater communication and that the SEPP be amended to make in compulsory that any proposed development applications within a five kilometre radius of a shooting range be required to address the issue of the range within its planning and the DPI notified if any impact on the shooting range expected.
- Immediate threat - there are a number of ranges across NSW that are under immediate threat that are currently lawful ranges but may well not be in in the short period of time that it will take for the SEPP to be amended and approved due to the exact reasons the SEPP is being amended, PMRC suggests that the amendments take effect for all ranges that were lawful at the date of closure for the submissions to this amendment, that being 02/12/13.

PMRC thanks the DPI for their efforts with this amendment.