

# MARK OWEN-GREENE

1083 RESEARCH STATION

1083 WILSONS CREEK ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY NSW 2482. AUSTRALIA

Saturday, Nov. 30th, 2013

To: Sarah McGirr, Manager Industry & Infrastructure Policy

From: Mark Owen-Greene - Public Officer, Cape Byron Pistol Club

Dear Sarah,

As Public Officer for Cape Byron Pistol Club, I, and our eighty club members welcome your attempt to pass *the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Shooting Ranges) 2013*. We sincerely hope it will lend some clarity and guidance to the fair and proper regulation of Public Sporting Facilities which remain an essential part of a community's well being.

Shooting ranges have become a contentious issue in many Shires, and I'm sure many Councils would prefer to recuse themselves if they could. As a result, about the only even-handed agent of positive change I've seen in the past few years has been NSW's Planning & Infrastructure 117 Direction {Feb. 16th 2011} concerning the effect and guidelines for urban expansion and land use conflicts in relation to existing ranges.

Our lawful, outdoor shooting range has been on the same land for the past forty years, and our FAR Range Approval runs until 2017. Yet, we have been in holdover now for three years even though our licensed range is on a sub-lease of a Crown Preserve Property head lease held by BSC as lessee.

This Crown head lease specifies only three approved sub-lease uses for this Crown Land's lessors:  
1) Pistol Range 2) Shotgun Range and 3) Aerodrome

However, Council has reinforced a reputation of politicised and inefficient decision making, poor communication of the issues at hand, and inability to establish reasonable timeframes. All of these elements foster consultation fatigue rather than solutions and result in a climate of cynicism.

Simple requests for clarification on essential information remain unanswered...not for weeks or months; but for years. We 'operate' on a month-to-month holdover lease {expired in 2010} at the apparent pleasure of Council who remind us of their ability to terminate our lease with thirty days notice.

These are but a few of the obstacles we encounter each day in the normal course of running a safe, orderly shooting facility.

In closing, I hope that NSW's Planning & Infrastructure can stimulate some much needed movement.

Sincerely,

Mark Owen-Greene