

13 McCudden St
GRIFFITH NSW 2680

1 December 2013

Submission concerning the proposed State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) Amendment (Shooting Ranges) 2013

I am executive member of a number of target shooting clubs that have ranges for shotguns, rifles and pistol matches. I have been involved with the development of three new shooting ranges in recent years and have provided advice and support to a number of other shooting clubs with various issues concerning their ranges.

I fully support this amendment for the following reasons:

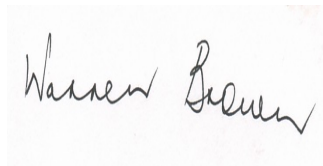
- (a) Its introduction will provide a consistent planning approach by Councils across NSW when they receive a Development Application from a target shooting club who wishes to modify their range. Having interacted with several different Councils I have personally experienced a wide range of responses to the same basic proposal.
- (b) Many of the existing shooting ranges have operated safely in their current location for many years without any reports of safety incidents. When they were originally approved their location was often in an isolated area some distance from any habitation or human activity. Since then, as a town or city has developed and expanded, many shooting ranges are now closer to settled areas. With the current danger area template requirements for shooting ranges working effectively, this continues to be so.
- (c) All shooting ranges must comply with the requirements set down for that range by the NSW Firearms Registry with the range being regularly inspected by a Range Inspector for compliance. Part of the range inspection includes consideration about the range danger areas behind and alongside the actual shooting range. As the range danger area is an integral part of any outdoor range it is essential that this be included with the actual shooting range itself.

- (d) Councils need to be aware of, and recognize that range danger areas can extend beyond the actual shooting range. Some are unaware of this. This is important when considering Development Applications from the owners of adjoining properties. Failure to consider the range danger area when approving a development can lead to restrictions being placed on the range or even the closure of the range. The range danger area needs to be actually marked on Council planning maps.

I have had personal experience of a local Council approving the construction of a house and shed on land adjoining a club, without any prior consultation with the club, even though the club owned the land on which it operated and paid rates. The Council failed to consult with nearby landholders as required. Luckily for the club the construction was just outside the range danger area and the operation of the club was not affected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Warren Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'W' and 'B'.

Warren Brown