

Michelle Cramsie - Submission re gun noise at Hilltop

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Submission re Gun Noise at Hilltop mod 4 MO 06-0232

As someone who has worked in various capacities to protect the rural environment and river systems south west of Sydney, I write this brief submission to voice my protest against the current push to have noise limits lifted at the recently approved gun club site at Hilltop. I was opposed to this development in the first place, on the grounds that as a society we should not be encouraging gun ownership and training in any way. Have we learnt nothing from the ongoing slaughter in the USA or from our own tragedy at Port Arthur ? Are gun owners so influential that they can continue to push for more sites to practice their infernal trade and, when sites are granted by weak governments and departments, then push to have conditions ameliorated ?

The noise of gunshots on a continual basis will disturb not only local residents but their livestock and pets, also the wildlife and bushwalkers in the nearby World Heritage listed Greater Blue Mountains National Park. The Rivers SOS Alliance is bringing an official to the area from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the UN body that monitors world heritage sites. We are asking him/her to comment on the loss of the Thirlmere Lakes in this National Park and we may also ask for comments on the capacity of gun noise to impact on the area in future.

At the very least the gun clubs must be required to build earthen walls and other noise barriers. If they claim that they cannot afford this then the project should be disallowed immediately,

Caroline Graham

Vice President, Rivers SOS Alliance

Since the residents and sympathisers like myself lost that battle, it is