



Julia Watkins 27 Elizabeth Way Hill Top. NSW, 2575

PCU024104

Re Application number MP 06-0232 Mod 4

Sunday 3rd July

Director, Strategic Assessment
Dear Ms Carmsie,

I object to the modifications to the "Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex". Rules about decibel levels are there to protect little people like us, waiving them for the elect few does little to promote harmony.

Today is Sunday 3rd July. While I compose this letter of opposition to the proposed modification to the consent for "Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex" the shooters are preparing to begin their day of 'fun'. In a few minutes my pleasure of sitting in my sunny courtyard will cease. At the moment the blue wrens are dancing about in the garden around me and in the distance a Lyre Bird is going through its repertoire of calls. One of them imitates a rooster, but the funniest of all is the mobile phone ring tone mimic. The tranquillity touches the soul.

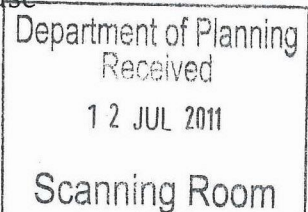
My husband and I (**The shooting commences, the bush noises stop**) bought and built over the years since 1985. We didn't object when the Mittagong bypass went through and the five shooters that used the range there were given Council permission to shoot in Hill Top, on Wattle Ridge Road. They were not always there, every weekend, their weaponry didn't make the loud noises of the (**ka-boom-bang**) weapons today, and there were only five of them.

We both worked out of the area and looked forward to retirement in the bush, in our little piece of paradise. I retired in 2008. We had no idea that Hill Top had been proposed for a big shooting complex (**ka-boom, bang-pop**) in 2003/2004, or that 'The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Club Inc' formed from 7 amalgamated clubs. Instead of the five shooters from the past, we now were accommodating seven clubs!

We were unsure of what was happening, however, we began to notice and discuss between ourselves how the level (**boom-boom-ka-boom**) of gunfire had increased, the echoes were louder and the shock waves (air displacement) more noticeable.

In 2006 the excision of the thousand hectares was approved. The development was taken out of the council's hands, to become a "Site of State Significance" under the dreadful Part 3A legislation. We knew then why our weekends (**boom-bang-bang**) were being shattered with increasing sounds of gunfire. Over the next few years we also came to the realisation that complaining to the Council could not help us, they had no power over the range now.

We went through the various routes of objection, fighting the long defeat, after all who cares about the people who live in this little village, as long as the gun clubs were (**boom-boom-boom**) happy, ambience doesn't seem to apply to those who suffer from the disturbance. Meanwhile, the noise level and the size of the weapons escalated. Do authorities know that not just noise but air displacement, from large calibre weapons, over time, has been found to cause



significant health problems? At the moment, in Canada, the decibel level for gunfire on shooting ranges should not exceed 60 decibels.

They now shoot at the range (only one range, at the moment) **(ka-boom-ka-boom, ka-boom)** four days a week, [that was big] since Communities NSW-Sport and Recreation took over the action, and are looking forward to the new ranges opening soon, allowing 200 shooting positions, instead of the current 7 positions.

Increasing the decibel level, from 75 to 85 means nothing to those who **live (ka-boom-bang, bang-bang)** where sound barriers can be used (impossible in the terrain where this project has been placed) but it means that the perceived noise, shot from range tops and over a valley to the ranges across from it, will seem like it has doubled. No doubt we will be forced inside with something loud playing, **(boom-bang, ka-boom-bang)** to distract us from the outside noise. There are days when we do that now. The time for selling up and moving away has gone.

This letter has been written to try to convey the loss of peace and tranquillity we have had to bear. I don't suppose anyone who can do anything about it will read my **(ka-ka-boom-pop-pop)** opposition statement, but maybe the clerk who has to read the objections might enjoy something that is a little different. Oh and while I continue to suppose that nobody cares, this complex would never have been permitted to be built in America. Their shooting facilities cannot be located on top of ranges; **(ka-boom-boom-boom)** they are not allowed to shoot over valleys, as it increases the effects of the noise and air displacement. I sit in frustration and anger as our amenity erodes away.

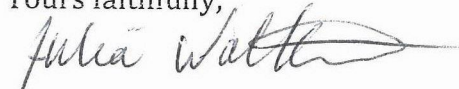
Thank goodness they stop for lunch.

Though I have chosen an unusual genre for a submission, do not think that I have taken poetic licence with my noise inserts. The Acoustic Compliance Testing, submitted by The Acoustic Group (*The Acoustic Group Report 41.4883.R5: ZSC 8th February, 2011*), to 'Communities NSW' show, in the table 'Location L4' (Appendix B), 243 shots from rim fire were measured in 11/2 hours. That is a loud gunshot every 22 seconds, equating to 53 or so words, when read with expression, from this text.

I remind you that at the moment they are allowed to shoot from 10am till 5pm, four days a week.

I add that The proponent cannot meet the requirements of the existing consent, as identified in the GHD noise tests last year (Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Compliance Noise Monitoring June 2010), often shooting above the 75 decibel limit, and we suffer even when it is below "acceptable" levels.

Yours faithfully,



Julia Watkins