

11 Denison Street  
Hill Top NSW 2575



11 July 2011

M/s Michelle Cramsie  
Department of Planning  
23 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000



Dear M/s Cramsie

**Re: Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc.**

The Southern Highlands shooting range in Hill Top is presently building a massive extension and modification to their existing facility, the design of which obviously is intended to attract additional membership with consequentially the number of users of firearms growing and whereupon in turn will have effect upon the Hill Top residents.

My wife and I purchased our land at Hill Top some nine years ago and we have now built our present home, quite a significant investment. Our intention was that the peace and tranquility of rural living would provide us with a satisfying retirement lifestyle. In fact we moved from Sydney purposefully to avoid the congestion, traffic and noise of the largely growing city. There certainly was no known threat of disruption to that aspiration at the time.

Almost all of our recreational pursuits have throughout our lives involved outside activities particularly gardening. We constantly sit in the garden to enjoy meals or a coffee, to admire the native birds, to read, relax, to plan and to monitor the progress as our garden gradually grows into maturity. We had previously established extensive gardens in Sydney for the same enjoyment of seeing the transformation to become an object of beauty.

During the twelve month period that I have lived in Hill Top, I have heard the noise of gunfire from time to time, sometimes quite identifiable, distracting and loud. However, by then being aware that the facility was located nearby, I took the attitude to live and let live. The noise could certainly be distracting but only occasionally annoying and much dependent upon either calm conditions or enhanced by the vagaries of wind direction.

However, from the information I am now able to secure it reinforces the argument, that under the new extended development proposal, the facility will become increasingly attractive for sporting shooters clubs to arrange their events, accordingly the noise levels have significant propensity to escalate to become a very substantial nuisance to what is currently for most of the time a reasonably tranquil environment.

The escalation factor of a greater number of shooters will become horrendous if within the new extended development for the clubs, the noise limitation is modified from the 75 decibels now permitted. The increased number of shooting positions being created will substantially

increase the noise level. Even any perceived insubstantial increase of allowable decibel levels alone must have a significant magnification to the noise from shooters generated by added access to firing positions and increased opportunity for membership.

This noise level magnification issue will be of much greater consequence considering that at present there is a single 800 metre range with only seven firing positions, whereas the new facility is designed to have five ranges and I believe almost 200 shooting positions. Already there has been army personnel at the range earlier this year, whilst I was not home at the time, my neighbors' have informed me that the noise was constant and of substantial nuisance.

Of further concern, my family enjoys walking in the tranquil serenity of the bush gradually exploring bush tracks within my own area and the National Parks within close proximity. I have a young grandson and would like to enjoy time with him and my family exploring the outdoors, identifying native flora and fauna, enjoying the view without fear of escaping ammunition and the sudden startling effect of gunfire.

Furthermore, my wife has bred selected bird varieties for a number of years both here and in Sydney, the birds being bred can easily startle and her period of breeding could be substantially affected, not to mention the effect upon the various native bird species which we encourage to visit our garden.

If as I expect, the shooter's club will be canvassing for greater membership and usage of their new facility, the result will impact greatly on our village life, noisy gunfire over longer periods, extended periods of use to that suffered at present, additional transient population growth especially during competition and practice sessions, greater volume of through traffic and all of which will not provide improvement to the very narrow roadway leading into the village.

I would not have made a complaint concerning the original arrangement of the shooting range, but the proposed extension has extreme consequences for the environment and rights of enjoyment to this community.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Hugh Hynd', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hugh Hynd

cc Hon. Pru Goward MP