

31 January 2017

WM Project Number: 17401  
Our Ref: SHRSC RB Comments  
Email: mhandbury@gmail.com

Matt Handbury  
Hill Top Residents Action Group

Dear Matt

**Re: Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex: Comments on change in approval conditions**

The document "Section 75W Modification to Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Approval - Major Project No. 06\_0232" proposes a number of changes to the approval conditions for the subject premises. Among these is a proposed change to Condition A9, to the effect that noise monitoring should be undertaken in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Authority's "Target Shooting Ranges: Application Note for Assessing Noise Compliance", dated July 2015. In particular, that document provides for the noise criterion to be assessed in terms of the arithmetic average of the Z-weighted peak noise level from a number of shots, with the criterion level taken to be a value of 75 dB.

The use of the above Application Note in assessing noise impact from the premises is considered to represent reasonable good practice in acoustic assessment. However, it represents a significant degradation of the existing conditions of consent for the premises, which require the value of 75 dB to be met by noise from all shots recorded. (It is assumed in both cases that reasonable efforts are made to exclude values that are significantly affected by wind.) An analysis of noise levels recorded from individual shots, as provided to me on 18 January, indicates that the difference between the maximum level recorded (excluding shots that are deemed to be wind-affected) and the arithmetic average level is approximately 5 dB.

Hence, although a criterion level of 75 dBA as an arithmetic average is considered to be reasonable for a new facility, it represents a significant degradation of the level of protection currently enshrined in the conditions of consent for the facility. To retain the same level of protection it would be appropriate to set the criterion for an arithmetic average Z-weighted peak noise level at 70 dB. I note that given the recorded noise levels that I have seen, this lower criterion value would be met under current conditions of range usage.

I trust this information is sufficient. Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully

**WILKINSON MURRAY**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Bullen', written over a faint, light blue circular stamp.

**Robert Bullen**

Principal