

INTERIM OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – 800m Multi-Purpose Range,

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS REGIONAL SHOOTING COMPLEX

**DETERMINATION OF MAJOR
PROJECT NO. 06_0232 BY THE
MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

**INTERIM OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (May, 2010) –
800m Multi-Purpose Range, Wattle Ridge Road, Hill Top
Conditions of Approval A6**

1. Introduction

1.1 General Overview

The establishment of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex, Wattle Ridge Road, Hill Top, was approved to proceed by the NSW Government in 2004. It will become an operational regional shooting complex with the construction and operation of new ranges. The Complex was established arising from a commitment to address difficulties faced by recreational and target shooters in the Illawarra and Southern Highlands region to secure long term security at a venue.

On the 1st March, 2010, the Minister for Planning issued Conditions of Approval (Major Project Application No. MP 06-0232) that provides the Administrative and related operational Conditions for the Complex.

The Complex, initially, provides access to three outdoor ranges (800m range, 500m multi-purpose range and 50m pistol range, plus two club-houses). Future additional ranges (200m pistol/rifle range, shotgun range and indoor air range) are allowed in terms of the Minister's Conditions of Approval.

The 800m multi-purpose range is an existing range, being operational since 1987.

Sport and Recreation (an agency of Communities NSW)) has entered into licence arrangements with the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc – SHRSC Inc - (with a membership of shooting clubs) to occupy and use the ranges. The agency will continue to exercise oversight of the operation of the venue, leaving day-to-day management to the SHRSC Inc and the Range Management Committee.

The Complex is located within Lot 100, DP 1088254. This **Initial Operational Management Plan** relates solely to the existing **800m multi-purpose range** and the associated facilities and structures within the Special Activities Zone approved by the Minister for Planning and within which the new approved shooting ranges will be constructed.

1.2 Reference Documents

- Conservation Agreement pursuant to Section 69B Part 4 Division 12 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 between the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Sport and Recreation in respect to Lot 100, DP 1088254
- Ecological Management Plan for Lot 100, DP 1088254 for all uncleared areas of Lot 100, DP 1088254
- Licence between NSW Sport and Recreation and the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc in respect to occupancy of portion of Lot 100, DP 1088254
- Memorandum of Understanding between Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) and the Parks and Wildlife Group, Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water for land management advice and assistance in respect to Lot 100, DP 1088254.
- Sporting Venues Authorities Act 2008 and Regulations
- Firearms Act 1996
- Consent conditions issued by the Minister for Planning (Major Project Application No MP06-0232 dated 23rd February, 2010)
- Range User Guide, NSW Firearms Registry

1.3 Objectives of the Complex

The objectives of the Complex are to:

- (a) provide well managed shooting ranges catering for rifle, pistol, shotgun and air-range disciplines that meet the needs of participating clubs and in accordance with the Constitution of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex dated 20th March, 2004;
- (b) ensure that all operational activities at the ranges are conducted in a manner consistent with the licence terms, consent conditions and land management plans; and

- (c) ensure that access to/from and use of the site is conducted in a manner that does not unduly impact on the amenity of Hill Top and surrounding communities.

1.4 Location and Contact Details

The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex is located approximately 5kms north-west of the village of Hill Top on Wattle Ridge Road.

There is one entry point located off Wattle Ridge Road to the 800m range and club house. A further entry point off Wattle Ridge Road will be provided to the 500m rifle range and 50m pistol range and club house once constructed.

The preferred access route to the site is via Coates Road, Hill Top (off Wilsons Drive) north of the Hill Top village. Club members, visitors and contractors are encouraged to use this route in lieu of travelling via the Hill Top village. The Range Management Committee (RMC) of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc will be expected to promote this as the preferred access route.

The Office holders of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc (SHRSC Inc) are Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The postal address of the SHRSC Inc is: PO Box 740 Dapto, NSW 2530.

The SHRSC Inc has agreed to acquire a **dedicated mobile phone** for use by the RMC as 'point of contact' during both operational and non-operational hours. This number will be promoted within the local community and to appropriate Government agencies, including the Department of Planning.

Communities NSW is responsible for overall management of the site. The Properties and Venues Directorate, Sport and Recreation is located at 6 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park. During office-hours, inquiries regarding the operation of the SHRSC should be directed to the Manager, Strategic Projects, Properties and Venues (9006 3700).

1.5 Site Visitor and Access Arrangements

Shooters and visitors must report to the designated Range Officer, and sign in the appropriate book, providing shooting licenses for verification as required by NSW Firearms Registry. Individual rifle/pistol clubs maintain their own registration books as per requirements of the Registry.

The allocation of range shooting times/days to the individual clubs is the responsibility of the Range Management Committee, which will prepare and maintain a roster of range club use.

Shooters and visitors must follow the directions of the Range Officer, and follow the requirements of the signs and safety flags used to delineate safe areas and firing lines.

Firearms are to be kept in vehicles until the shooter is signed-on, and is directed by the Range Officer to the firing line.

The Rules for Safety and Conduct on Ranges will be displayed at the clubhouses, and at prominent locations adjacent to the range.

Range access on any other days for any reason must be made by arrangement with the RMC who can be contacted on the SHRSC dedicated mobile number (to be publicized widely). Range access by statutory bodies can be arranged by contacting the RMC on the SHRSC mobile phone or the Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) designated staff member on 9006 3700 during office hours.

Specific arrangements apply to the Nattai Area (Parks and Wildlife Group) staff under an approved Memorandum of Understanding between Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) and the Parks and Wildlife Group, Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water.

1.6 Range Conditions

The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex is subject to Police licensing provisions, Minister for Planning Conditions of Approval and environmental priorities within an Ecological Management Plan.

The NSW Firearms Registry (NSW Police Force) has licensed the 800m multi purpose range to the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc. under Approval No: 409605460

The SHRSC Inc Range Management Committee is responsible to comply with all licensing, operational and land management requirements as relates to the terms of their licence occupancy agreement.

Sport and Recreation is represented at the RMC meetings and will exercise oversight of the operations of the Complex in terms of those matters within its jurisdiction. In addition, matters related to the licensing of the ranges will be subject to oversight by the Chief Range Inspector, NSW Firearms Registry.

Range Conditions:

- The 800m range Approval remains in force until 27/08/2010 unless sooner revoked or extended by the Commissioner.
- The Approval may be revoked, or the conditions varied, at any time by the Commissioner for any reason deemed sufficient.
- No alterations or extensions shall be made to the Shooting Range without the prior approval of the Manager, Firearms Registry.
- The Approval Holder shall notify the Manager, Firearms Registry, in writing, within seven days of any changes occurring, if the Shooting Range permanently closes, or there is a change of Approval Holder or change of postal address of the Approval Holder.
- The rules of each match are to be strictly followed at all times.
- The range is not to operate unless a designated Range Officer, Firearms Instructor or a person nominated by the Holder of the Approval is in attendance and directly supervising all activities involving firearms.
- Any Firearms Club operating or using the range must be approved by the Commissioner.
- Persons using the range must be the holder of an appropriate category of NSW Firearms licence or the holder of the equivalent licence issued by another State or Territory, be the holder of a Firearms Dealers licence issued by the Commissioner and authorising the use of the shooting range, or be authorised by a permit issued by the Commissioner to use the shooting range, or exempt under Clause 110, 111 or 112 of the Firearms Regulation 2006 from holding a firearms licence.

INTERIM OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – 800m Multi-Purpose Range,

- Activities on the shooting range must be conducted with proper regard to the preservation of public safety or the peace.
- Police may inspect the range and its operations at any time.
- The Range Approval cannot be transferred without the consent of NSW Firearms Registry

1.7 Range Management Committee.

The Range Management Committee, incorporating representatives from each of the founding member clubs, will exercise day-to-day management of the site and ranges consistent with the Constitution. A representative from Sport and Recreation will attend meetings of the Committee as an 'Ex-Officio' member.

The Committee will seek local community involvement, noting provisions for 'Ex-Officio' membership.

1.8 Rules for Safety and Conduct on Ranges.

The Range Management Committee - consistent with the Constitution of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc - is empowered to make, repeal and amend such by-laws as they consider necessary for the wellbeing of the Complex. Further, the Committee has the power to discipline any member club, ordinary member or visitor of a club found guilty of infringement of any rule or rules determined by the Committee.

In terms of Development Consent E1, no private or club owned firearm (or Army firearm) can be kept onsite overnight in the club-house. Similarly, no ammunition of any type is permitted to be kept onsite when the shooting complex is not in use. Specific conditions apply in respect to the storing of firearms and ammunition during approved special events.

The RMC will develop a set of "Rules for Safety and Conduct on Ranges" that include the requirements of the NSW Firearms Registry, the conditions set by the Determination of Major Project No 06-0232 and the Shooting Complex Environmental Management Plan. These Rules are to be made available to all members and visitors to the SHRSC and posted in prominent places around the complex.

1.9 Obligations of Members of Firearms Clubs under the Firearms Act 1996

All licenced shooters must abide by the provisions of the Firearms Act 1996 and the Firearms Regulation 2006 with respect to notifying the Registry of changes to name, address, as well as being subjected to inspections by the NSW Police to confirm the types of firearms owned and the safe storage of firearms and ammunition. The regulations also contain requirements for the carrying and safe transport of firearms and ammunition.

The secretaries of the member clubs are required to report to the Firearms Registry the number of shooting attendances of each member who uses club membership as a reason to hold a firearms licence.

1.10 Obligations of Firearms Clubs and Range Licence Holder under the Firearms Act 1996

The licence holder and approved Clubs must abide by the Firearms Act 1996 and the Firearms Regulation 2006 and report to the Firearms Registry as required.

The licence holder must ensure that red flags and safety warning signs as specified in the 'Range Users Guide' of the NSW Firearms Registry are erected, as appropriate.

Rules for Safety and Conduct on Ranges will be developed by the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc in line with the Range Users Guide and the conditions placed on the range by the NSW Firearms Registry in regard to the range:

- a) Location
- b) Description
- c) No. Firing Points
- d) Firing Distances
- e) Approved Firearms
- f) Approved Targets
- g) Approved Ammunition
- h) Approved Muzzle Velocity
- i) Approved Muzzle Energy
- j) Special Considerations

1.11 Public Use

The *Firearms Act 1996* states that people who satisfy the licensing and related requirements of the Act have a legitimate right to pursue lawful shooting activities. Genuine reasons for having a licence include sport/target shooting, recreational hunting/vermin control, firearm collection, primary production, business or employment or animal welfare.

A licensed applicant, whose genuine reason for having a licence is sport or target shooting, must be a current member of a shooting club approved by the Police Commissioner in accordance with the regulations, and which conducts competitions or activities requiring the use of firearms for which the licence is sought.

A licenced applicant, whose genuine reason for having a licence is recreational hunting/vermin control, must (a) be the owner or occupier of rural land, (b) produce proof of permission given by the owner or occupier of rural land, (c) be a current member of a hunting cub approved by the Commissioner in accordance with the regulations.

Other genuine reason definitions can be found in the Firearms Act (1996) Part 12 – Genuine reason for having a Licence.

Unlicensed persons may only be authorised to possess and use a firearm whilst participating in an approved firearms safety training course under the direct supervision of an approved firearms instructor. This is subject to successfully completing the required "Declaration - Person Shooting on an Approved Range or undertaking a Firearms Safety Training Course" P650 form and this does not apply to prohibited firearms. Persons aged between 12 and 18 can only do so if their parent or legal guardian completed the P650 declaration. More information can be obtained from the NSW Firearm Registry. (Fact Sheet)

(http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/142125/fact_sheet_declaration_p650.pdf)

All visitors to the SHRSC - shooting or non shooting - must abide with all Rules for Safety and Conduct on Ranges, set by the RMC for safe shooting and appropriate conduct whilst on the range.

No capacity presently exists for members of the public to shoot at the range, unless they participate in an approved event organized by one of the member clubs.

2. Interim Operational Management Plan

This Interim Operational Management Plan was prepared and submitted to the Department of Planning as per **Condition of Approval A6** (Major Project 02_0232) dated 1st March, 2010 to permit application of Condition A6 for use of the 800m multi-purpose range for up to four days per week.

2.1 Operational days of the 800m range and maximum number of shooters

In accordance with Condition of Approval A6 approved by the Minister for Planning, the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex is presently approved to operate for four (4) days in any week, Monday to Sundays (including weekends as part of the four days) as follows:

(i) Outdoor Range (Administrative Condition A6):

	Days per week	Operating Hours
• 800m multi-purpose range	Four	10:00AM - 5:00PM
• No shooting is permitted on the outdoor ranges after 5pm.		
• Shooting on public holidays is not permitted, except for Special Events (Refer Condition A10)		

(ii) Events and Competitions

In the event that the SHRSC Inc is chosen to host events beyond club events (Regional/State/National), special concessions can be approved by the Department of Planning to increase range usage on no more than three occasions per year. Applications must be lodged with the Department for extended range use at least 30 days prior to the event/competition, supported by an appropriate management plan as per Condition A10).

(iii) Member Clubs

The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex is the 'home-range' for the following foundation clubs (which jointly constitute the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc):

- Southern Highlands Rifle Club
- Illawarra Regional Shooting Association
- Illawarra Service Rifle Club
- Kiama - Albion Park Rifle Club
- '74' Pistol Club
- Phoenix Pistol Club
- Illawarra Branch, Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.

The two pistol clubs will continue to use alternative sites pending construction of the 50m pistol range in the future.

Provision in the Constitution of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc allows that body to determine membership status and arrangements, including temporary club membership.

The allocation of range times/days for club use is a matter for determination by the Range Management Committee. The Committee will regularly monitor and document participant range users in line with projected range use as detailed in the development application provided to the Department of Planning.

Sport and Recreation will regularly review range use and shooter participation levels.

The allocation of range times/days to Clubs will be subject to NSW Firearms Registry licensing provisions relating to approved firearms/caliber for the range, noting the firearm noise limit of 75db(L) imposed in the Development Consent.

(iv) Events Approved by NSW Firearms Registry:

The 800m range is approved for the following events only:

ISSF Matches

Service Pistol

Rimfire Pistol Metallic Silhouette

Blackpowder M/L Pistol

Clay Target

Simulated Field & Game Shotgun

Rimfire Rifle Metallic Silhouette

Three Position Smallbore Rifle

Air Rifle Metallic Silhouette

Three Position Air Rifle

Service Rifle

Fullbore/Classification Rifle

Field Class Rifle

F Class Fullbore Rifle

Three Position Centrefire Rifle

Lever Action Rifle

Big Game Rifle

Bench Rest Rifle (Approved Firearms Only)

Three Position Blackpowder M/L Rifle

General Target Practice (Approved Firearms Only)

While many of the listed events are normally conducted in accordance with rules prescribed by the various State/National bodies, their suitability for the Hill Top range, and any specific requirements, will be determined by the Range Management Committee. Conditions of Approval in respect to limits on operating shooting times/days and firearm noise limits will be applied in all situations.

(v) Use of the 800m range

The 800m multi-purpose range will be retained with its present configuration. Shooting times are approved between 10:00am – 5:00pm for up to four days a week (requiring at least three days per week when the range is not in use).

Consistent with approvals of the NSW Firearms Registry, the range is used for shooting disciplines over distances of up to 800m and can be configured for use as a shotgun range. Only one discipline and firing distance can be used at any one time.

Weekend use of the 800m range in the immediate future will continue as at present (as per Schedule 4 of the Conditions of Approval) pending approval of this Interim Operational Management Plan and finalization of noise testing requirements to permit use of the range up to 4 days a week.

The additional two shooting days available to the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc will be planned and allocated as follows:

Military use.

Use by the Australian Defence Force of the 800m range will be restricted to two days per week (consecutive). Past arrangements approved by the Southern Highlands Rifle Club (then licence holder) permitted Army use approximately every 2nd month. This involved up to seven soldiers and two instructors. It is anticipated that the Army will continue this attendance pattern and be subject to the noise limits and daily shooting time periods as detailed in the Minister for Planning's Conditions of Approval.

Use of the 800m Hill Top range presents significant attractions to the Army, related to its seclusion, the length of the range and the fact that the templated calibre limit of 11.55mm (unique for a civilian range in the greater Sydney basin) permits the use of specialist small arms of up to .338/8.58mm caliber. Use of the range tends to relate to deployment of troops to overseas situations or to domestic training demands. Their usual training arrangements sees two shooters at any one time carrying out slow deliberate fire with bolt action rifles.

Should national interests require that military access be granted beyond two days per week, then adjustments would be made in respect to civilian use to ensure that the approved 4 days operation in any one week was not breached.

It is anticipated that military use will be, generally, Thursday/Friday on about 6/7 occasions a year.

Club use.

Club and casual use of the 800m range will be allocated on non-military use days. The range will continue with its present configuration providing shooting points at distances of up to 800m. The range is limited in its use and access to an additional two days per week will not increase in any significant way the number of shooters using the range at any one time.

Pending completion of new range facilities (initially the 500m multi purpose range and 50m pistol range), there will be no great influx of additional shooters. The 500m range will provide access to a wider range of shooting disciplines and increased patronage will certainly occur at that time. It is possible there will be a flow-on in terms of increased use of the 800m range at that point by increased membership of the constituent clubs of the SHRSC Inc.

In the intervening period, club use of the 800m range will generally be restricted to casual use by existing week-end shooters. At the present time, casual use does not occur at this range and shooters drive to other ranges to practice and effect adjustments to equipment preparatory to competitive events held on week-ends.

Casual use of the 800m range must comply with all Firearm Registry requirements similar to club competitive events.

It is anticipated that club use will be, generally, Thursday – Sunday, noting military use on particular Thursday/Friday periods during the year. Operating hours will comply with the approved 10:00am – 5:00pm spread for outdoor ranges.

Access to the additional two days per week for the existing 800m rifle range will not unduly impact on local Hill Top residents. Increased vehicular access to the site will be minimal (the RMC will encourage access to the site via Coates Road and not through the main village centre). Firearm noise levels (previously confirmed at less than 75dB(L) peak hold with use of the noisiest firearms) will be monitored. There is no reason to suspect that levels will exceed this limit.

The Conditions of Approval (Schedule 4) limits, for an intervening period, the maximum number of shooters at the range on any occasion for each Saturday/Sunday in a month. This is an unrealistic limitation, effectively curtailing the flexibility to allocate shooters within the approved daily shooting times (10:00am – 5:00pm).

The present range configuration imposes natural limits to its use and, accordingly, to the extent of club use and shooter numbers. Consistent with A6

operating parameters, the RMC will allocate the multi-purpose range across the various shooting disciplines to maximize opportunities for shooters to pursue their sporting and recreational interests. The times required to complete specific shooting disciplines vary (including the number of participants) resulting in the total number of shooters who could use the range on a particular day also varying.

Based on present club membership numbers within the SHRSC Inc and the shooting disciplines approved and pursued on the 800m multi-purpose range, it is not expected that more than 30 shooters would attend the range on any one day (say thirteen in the AM, twelve in the PM or some minor variation). This attendance pattern is likely for Saturday/Sunday. However, a lesser attendance pattern (maximum of 20) should be assumed whilst the site only provides a single (and limited) shooting facility in respect to the additional two days approved for use (non military). This projected non-weekend use includes the less regular days that the Australian Army would occupy the range.

Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) and the Parks and Wildlife Group (Nattai Area) will have ongoing responsibilities for the site, both operationally and environmentally.

2.2 Measures to manage any military use at the 800m multi-purpose range

The Hill Top range is not a declared Commonwealth Defence Practice Area (DPA) providing the Royal Australian Army priority access and use. The Army does not seek or obtain DPA declaration in respect to civilian ranges. Use of the Hill Top 800 metre or new 500 metre range by the military will continue to be by agreement with the SHRSC Inc, subject to the same operating terms and conditions as apply to that body.

The Hill Top range has been inspected by the Department of Defence and approved under DI(G) 659-1 as a Defence Training Area (DTA). It provides the Army with unique access to range facilities that permits use of military firearms in a secluded area that meets their priority training needs.

Subject to agreement by the SHRSC Inc., members of the Royal Australian Army will be permitted to use the range facilities with use of firearms restricted to 10:00am – 5:00pm on no more than four (4) days in a week, including weekend periods and the same noise constraints as imposed on the SHRSC Inc.

2.3 Attended noise monitoring to be undertaken on the first 3 occasions of use of the 800m range from the date of the Minister's approval, thereafter, quarterly in the first twelve months of operations (aligned with each season) and annually thereafter to confirm noise levels from firearms measured at residences comply with appropriate limits. The monitoring must include that of the known noisiest firearms being used on the range

Firearm Noise Limits

Administrative Condition A9 approved by the Minister for Planning provides that the noise from firearms or use of the site must not exceed 75dB(L) peak hold at the boundary to any existing private property with a residential dwelling, or where this is more than 30 metres from a dwelling, at the most affected location within 30 metres of the dwelling. This is to apply during prevailing weather conditions.

It is noted that the initial noise testing results undertaken by GHD Pty Ltd in February, 2007 and incorporated in the Environmental Assessment (Volume 2) were confirmed in subsequent noise testing undertaken by Norman Disney & Young in June/July, 2008.

Approved Firearms:

The 800m Range is approved for the following calibre firearms only:

Air pistols of a calibre up to 4.5mm (.177)

Blackpowder M/L pistols of a calibre up to 19.05mm (.75)

Rimfire pistols of a calibre up to 5.6mm (.22)

Centrefire pistols of a calibre up to 11.43mm (.45)

Shotguns up to 12 gauge

Air rifle of a calibre up to 5.6mm (.22)

Rimfire rifle of a calibre up to 5.6mm (.22)

Centrefire rifle of a calibre up to 12.5mm (.50) (Excluding .338 Lapua Magnum & .50 cal BMG)

Blackpowder M/L rifle of a calibre up to 19mm (.75)

Attended Noise Monitoring Arrangements

Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) has contracted a qualified agency to undertake attendant firearm noise monitoring of the 800m rifle range in accordance with the Conditions of Approval.

Noise testing will be coordinated with the Range Management Committee. Pending completion of this testing, the 800m range will continue to operate in accordance with Schedule 4 of the Conditions of Approval dated 1st March, 2010.

Subject to approval of this Interim Operational Management Plan by the Department of Planning and finalization of noise testing arrangements as per A6 (c), the Range Management Committee will move to use the 800m range up to four (4) days per week.

Prior notification of the expanded use of the 800m range will be given to the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Bowral Police Local Area Command and within the Hill Top village.

2.4 Compliance monitoring results for the shooting complex to be posted within 7 days on a website and submitted to the Department of Planning and the Wingecarribee Shire Council to allow for public access to this information.

Communities NSW will arrange for noise monitoring results required as per A6(d) to be posted within 7 days on the website of Sport and Recreation, an agency of Communities NSW. Detail about how the community can access this information will be provided at the relevant time.

2.5 Bushfire sub-plan and emergency and evacuation procedure plan including days when no shooting is permitted

A Bushfire Management Plan in respect to Lot 100, DP 1088254, which incorporates bush fire resource information, bushfire mitigation works schedule, bushfire awareness program, bushfire response strategy, bushfire recovery requirements and monitoring and reporting arrangements has been lodged with the Department of Planning as required.

Attention is specifically drawn to the **Property Bushfire Management Plan (Appendix A)**.

Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) has discussed the Management Plan with representatives of the Wingecarribee Rural Fire Service following a site inspection. This agency agrees to fund a Fire Danger Rating Meter, to be installed and maintained by the RFS, at a position on Wattle Ridge Road recommended by the RFS prior to the extended use of the 800m range.

Copies of this Plan will be lodged with the Wingecarribee Shire Council, Rural Fire Service (Mittagong) and the Parks and Wildlife Group (Nattai Area). A copy will be provided to the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex.

Representatives of GHD who prepared the Plan will meet with the RMC in terms of the ensuing responsibilities as occupier of the site.

2.6 Methods to encourage the use of non-lead based ammunition

There is no **target** ammunition readily available that is non-lead based (2009). The only non-lead ammunition currently available is made from solid copper and is designed for high impact hunting with rifles. These projectiles are prohibitively expensive for target use and reduce the service life of a firearm. Their use for target shooting is not encouraged.

When a non-lead target load is developed and made commercially available for target shooters, the RMC will test its power factor and evaluate for use on the ranges. If the non-lead target ammunition is found to be suitable and would not cause any other environmental impacts on the range, it will be encouraged for use by members.

2.7 Management of range including clean up of spent cartridges

The Range Management Committee (RMC) of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Inc will be responsible for day-to-day management of the 800m multi-purpose range consistent with their approved Constitution, occupancy licence conditions with Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) and the Range Approval issued by the NSW Firearms Registry.

The Constitution of the SHRSC Inc includes (in summary form) that the Objectives of the Complex shall be to:

- hold the licence for the site and act on behalf of member clubs in dealing with outside bodies, including Government agencies;
- allocate range/s to member clubs on a rostered basis;
- determine time and days of operation (consistent with consent approval)
- promote the sport of shooting; and
- develop a code of ethical conduct for all users.

The Constitution provides the framework for day-to-day functioning of the Complex, incorporating membership arrangements, disciplinary powers and appeal procedures, rules (by-laws) of operation, appointment of office-bearers, conduct of elections and meeting arrangements.

In conjunction with Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation), an Operational Handbook is being prepared to facilitate governance and oversight of the Complex. The Handbook will be revised and re-issued when the 500m multi-purpose range and 50m pistol range are operational.

A representative of Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) has been appointed as an Ex-Officio Member of the RMC.

The RMC requires that participating clubs using the 800m range ensure it is left in a clean and tidy condition at the completion of daily shoots. They require that rimfire cases and scrap centrefire cases be collected during target changes and placed in a provided bin during the course of the day.

Approval protocols require that the particular discipline captain inspect the range at the end of the day and instruct shooters to pick up any other refuse such as cleaning patches or garbage. No shooter is to leave the range until it is clean and tidy. Discipline Captains will ensure that all refuse collected is removed from the range at the end of the day, consistent with the practice that has applied at this range for some time.

2.8 Details of the location of warning signage on the site boundary or for bushwalkers

The 800m multi-purpose range is located adjacent to and to the west of the Transgrid transmission lines. This facility forms the eastern boundary of Lot 100, DP 1088254.

Based on advice from Rangers from the Parks and Wildlife Group (Nattai Region), it is known that trail bike riders illegally enter the Transgrid property (cleared areas) on the border with Lot 100, DP 1088254 and, presumably, ride into access fire tracks within the Lot in which the range is located.

The approved Range Danger Template for the 800m range extends for a distance of approximately 1.5 kms in a south-west direction beyond the stop-butt end of the range and passes close to the boundary with the Transgrid property.

Page 45 (Chapter 10) of the NSW Firearms Registry Range Users Guide provides that, in areas where there is negligible risk of people entering the danger area (eg. on a large property or in extremely difficult terrain), sign posting may be the only practical option to advise of shooting activities.

INTERIM OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – 800m Multi-Purpose Range,

Accordingly, warning signs will be erected along the eastern boundary of Lot 100, DP 1088254 for a distance of approximately 2.5 kilometres. Signs will be erected at 100m intervals and will specifically be placed at entry points of known walking trails. Warning signs will conform to the example of a danger sign for range boundary fences as detailed on page 69 of the Guide **(see attached)**.

Warning sign stickers will be privately sourced and arrangements finalized through the Parks and Wildlife Group (Nattai Area) for sign structures similar to those used in State reserves/parks/catchment areas to be installed.

Portions of Lot 100, DP 1088254 **outside of the range danger area of the 800m range** and accessible via formed fire trail access tracks will continue to be available for passive walking by the public.