



Communities
Sport & Recreation

Sam Haddad
Director-General
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Haddad

I refer to your approval dated the 23rd October, 2010 of a modification application in respect to Determination of Major Project 06_0232 for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex, Hill Top. That application was in respect to an oversight on the part of Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) to notify the Department of Planning of a requirement to relocate the 500/200m ranges due to construction difficulties discovered following more detailed survey work. The approval validated earlier site clearing that, at the time, was outside the scope of the original site approval for the 500m range.

In providing Department of Planning officers with relevant site diagrams and drawings for the modification application, Drawing No 21-17850-C003 was included along with other documentation. It appears that an unintended consequence of providing that drawing - which subsequently was placed on the Department of Planning's website as part of the modification approval - was to show the site of the 50m pistol range in an area other than the original and intended location.

I can confirm that Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) never sought or required that the site location of the 50m range be relocated from the position originally intended as per the Preferred Project Report July, 2008 incorporated within the 1st March, 2010 Determination of the Minister for Planning.

In summary, the site clearing for the 50m pistol range was undertaken at the initial and intended site. This area was the location subject to close ecological study in all the environmental work undertaken in the initial Environmental Assessment Report. No case can be argued that the site cleared has not been ecologically assessed.

The relocation of the 500/200m ranges did vary the range danger templates in terms of their relationship with the 50m pistol range and the 800m rifle range. There is no issue in respect to the 800m range. In respect to the relationship between the 200m and 50m ranges, there would have been a slight cross-over of the former range danger template if provision did not exist to alter the pistol range building configuration. It is possible to revise the 50m pistol range design parameters, such that the 200m range danger template will pass beyond the pistol range.

The licensing of shooting ranges is the responsibility of the Police Commissioner under the provisions of the Firearms Act. Officers of my agency have been in contact with the Range Inspector, Firearms Registry, NSW Police and kept him informed of the changes to the location of the 500/200m ranges. In respect to the 50m pistol range, he has confirmed that the range, subject to necessary design modifications, remains eligible to be licenced as an operating range under the Firearms Act in its current location.

In view of the unintended consequences that arise from the inclusion of Drawing No 21-17850-C003 within documentation provided to the Department of Planning, and it being incorporated within your modification approval of the 23rd October, 2010, Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) would seek a modification of that approval to validate the site location of the 50m range.

I attach a Section 75W modification application. A revised site location drawing is being prepared by our consultants and will be lodged immediately with your agency to allow the application to be finalized.

A cheque payable to the Department of Planning for \$750 covering the modification application fee charge will also be lodged with the Department in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Darryl Clout', written in a cursive style.

Darryl Clout
General Manager

4.11.10