

Modification of Major Project Approval Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex MP 06-0232 Mod 4

Section 75W of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*

As delegate of the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure under delegation dated 14 September 2011, the Planning Assessment Commission determines to refuse the modification of the project approval referred to in Schedule 1, for the reasons listed in Schedule 2.



Commission Member



Commission Member

Sydney, 7 May 2012

SCHEDULE 1

Project Approval

MP 06-0232 granted by the Minister for Planning on 1 March 2010 for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex, as amended by modifications dated 23 October 2010, 15 December 2010 and 16 February 2011.

Modification

- Modify the maximum noise levels and use of the existing 800m range per week;
 - The maximum noise levels are to be arithmetic averages
 - Specify methodology for future noise monitoring including location, time period and weather conditions;
 - Extend the time period for noise monitoring reports to be made available on a website;
 - Delete the requirement for an acoustic shelter at the 800m range.
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SCHEDULE 2

REASONS FOR REFUSAL

- The modification application proposes (for the 800m range only) to change the noise limit in the existing consent, from an absolute limit of 75dB(L) peak hold to a limit of 80dB(L) peak hold calculated as an arithmetic average. This:
 - would allow a substantially greater level of noise impact on residents than that allowed by the existing consent. The potential magnitude of this increase in impact has not been quantified or adequately assessed; and
 - would establish two different limits for firearm noise emanating from a single site on the same day making regulatory surveillance and enforcement virtually impossible.
- The modification application proposes other changes to the requirements of the existing consent for measurement and assessment of noise impacts including:
 - changing the existing 75dB(L) peak hold absolute limit for ranges other than the 800m range to a 75dB(L) peak hold limit calculated as an arithmetic average; and
 - deleting the requirement for measurement under prevailing weather conditions and replacing it with a requirement for measurement under still wind or light wind conditions.

Both of these proposed changes will most likely result in an unquantified increase in the current allowable noise impact at residential premises and this potential increase has not been adequately assessed.
- The modification application proposes significant change in the locations at which noise impacts are to be measured. No robust evidence is provided to establish that monitoring at the proposed locations will provide an equivalent outcome to monitoring requirements in the current consent. The effect of these changes on measurement of noise impacts on residents has not been adequately assessed.
- The proposed modification to the noise limit for the 800m range proceeds from a perceived inability to meet the noise limit in the current consent. The current consent clearly contemplates that non-compliance is a risk and a range of possible mitigation options for the shooting range complex are outlined. No thorough assessment has been made of the ability of mitigation options to bring the 800m range into compliance. It is not in the public interest for residents to be subjected to an unquantified increase in allowable noise impacts as an alternative to implementation of mitigation options.
- The modification application seeks to delete the requirement to install an acoustic shelter at the 800m firing point. This is premature in the absence of a comprehensive assessment of mitigation options for the 800m range as a whole.