

Office of Sport
Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex
Community Consultation Report

Final Report
October 2016

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Executive Summary

The Office of Sport is in the process of making a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to seek approval for modifications to the planning consent for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex granted in 2010.

These modifications include; adopting Environmental Protection Authority guidelines for best practice noise assessment of target shooting ranges; the construction of earth mounds for noise reduction and specialised design and height of new firing platforms to further reduce noise levels. They also include design improvements to stop-butts for the best management of lead.

It is the Office of Sports' position that these modifications will allow the Complex to operate consistent with established industry and compliance practices, effectively mitigate noise and improve the safety and environmental performance of the Complex.

Following a previously unsuccessful application in 2012 to modify the planning consent, the Office of Sport has sought to revise the application for modifications and demonstrate consideration of stakeholder and community input and previously expressed concerns in the preparation of the new application.

Between 2012 and 2016, the Office of Sport engaged in targeted consultation with key stakeholders, members of the community and technical experts to prepare an application that would both address community concerns and deliver best practice operation of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex.

As part of this engagement program the Office of Sport engaged KJA to develop and deliver an open Community Information Session for the Hill Top community. This Information Session focused on discussing the key elements of the proposed application with the local community and receiving feedback prior to the submission of the application.

The objectives of the Community Information Session included;

- informing the community about the detail in the application
- capturing a broader community view of the application
- increasing community awareness of the application
- gaining an understanding of key community issues and opportunities to be addressed in the application
- providing an opportunity for community members questions about the complex and/or application to be addressed directly by members of the project team

There were a number of tools used to deliver the objectives including;

- newspaper advertisement
- letter box drop
- flyer
- letter invitation
- website information
- Community Information Session
- feedback form
- fact sheet
- media briefing

These efforts resulted in a Community Information Session that allowed for both wide-ranging discussions to occur and detailed information to be presented by project team members. Feedback from the engagement process indicates those who chose to participate were highly engaged and the application to modify the planning consent received very little opposition.

This report outlines the communication, engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the Office of Sport as part of the preparation of the application and key issues raised by the community in this process.

Summary of key findings

As part of the process of making an application to seek approval for modifications to the planning consent for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex (the Complex) granted in 2010, the Office of Sport undertook targeted stakeholder engagement and an open Community Information Session. The Community Information Session was held on 1 August in Hill Top and feedback mechanisms were made available to the community until 9 August 2016. During this time, 57 people attended the Community Information Session and/or provided feedback via hard copy feedback form, online feedback form, submission, phone or email.

Overall, the proposed application to modify the planning consent received broad support from those people who attended the Community Information Session.

 **26%**

of people who participated made it known that they are **supportive** of the complex and/or application

Of those who participated 15 people or 26% made specific comment in support of the complex and/ or application. By comparison, 2 people or 4% made specific comment opposed to the complex and/or application.

In contrast, a previous application in 2012 to modify the planning consent received a number of objections and organised opposition from members of the Hill Top community.

- Traffic was the most commonly raised issue, mentioned by 23 people or 40% of those who participated in the consultation process. Of the conversations or submissions related to traffic, road maintenance and road safety were the most common sub-topics (69% of traffic related discussions/submissions included these sub-topics).



40%

of people who participated raised **TRAFFIC** related issues

- Noise related matters were the second most commonly raised topic, mentioned by 18 people who participated in the consultation process. Of these people, 6 raised noise monitoring, reporting and compliance related sub-topics and 4 people made specific comment that noise was not an issue for them.



32%

of people who participated raised **NOISE** related issues



53%

of people who participated raised **OTHER** issues

- Other Issues were raised by 30 people or 53% of those who participated in the consultation process. Other Issues topics included operation and activities of the complex, membership, competitions and amenities available

Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex

Community Consultation Report - August 2016

1. Background and Objectives

The Office of Sport is in the process of making a submission to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to seek approval for modifications to the planning consent for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex granted in 2010.

The aim of the application is to allow the Complex to operate consistent with established industry and compliance practices, effectively mitigate noise and improve the safety and environmental performance of the Complex.

The Office of Sport has engaged in targeted consultation with key stakeholders, members of the community and technical experts to prepare an application that would both address community concerns and deliver best practice operation of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex (SHRSC).

As part of this engagement program the Office of Sport engaged KJA to develop and deliver an open Community Information Session for the Hill Top community. This Information Session focused on discussing the key elements of the proposed application with the local community and receiving feedback prior to the submission of the application.

The objectives of the Community Information Session included;

- informing the community about the detail in the application
- capturing a broader community view of the application
- increasing community awareness of the application
- gaining an understanding of key community issues and opportunities to be addressed in the application
- providing an opportunity for community members questions about the complex and/or application to be addressed directly by members of the project team

2. Methodology

Understanding the application included a number of elements, ranging from compliance to design, KJA developed a Community Information Session which focused on participant led discussion. Designed as a “drop in” style event, the Community Information Session allowed participants to discuss a range of topics related to the Complex and application with members of the Project Team.

Held at the Hill Top Community Centre on Monday 1 August from 3:00pm to 7:30pm a number of tools were used to promote the information session and help stakeholders to understand the key issues and opportunities to be addressed by the Office of Sport. The following communication tools were used:

2.1 Invitations and letterbox drops

More than 1,100 letters inviting Hill Top residents to the Community Information Session were distributed via a letterbox drop on 22 July 2016. A further three individually addressed letters were sent to neighbouring property owners and two members of the Hill Top Residents Action Group Incorporated.

The letter included a link to the proposed modifications and mechanisms to provide feedback for those residents who could not attend in person.

A copy of this letter can be found in Attachment A.

2.2 Advertisement

Advertisements for the Community Information Session were placed in local newspapers on 27, 28 and 29 July 2016, reaching an estimated circulation of 24,055.

The advertisement included a link to the proposed modifications to allow participants to view the materials ahead of the Community Information Session.

Publication	Circulation
Southern Highland News	8,100
Bowral Highlands Post	13, 830
South Coast Register	2,125

A copy of the advertisement can be found in Attachment B.

2.3 Community Flyers

To compliment the invitations, letterbox drop and advertisement, 110 factsheets were delivered to local businesses in the days prior to the Community Information Session. The community flyer was displayed at the Community Centre and emailed to the Hill Top Residents Action Group Inc.

A copy of the community flyer can be found in Attachment C and a copy of the factsheet at Attachment E.

2.4 Community Information Session

The Community Information Session was held at the Hill Top Community Centre, Hill Top NSW on Monday 1 August between 3.00pm and 7.30pm. In total, 54 people attended the Community Information Session. A breakdown of the feedback from the community including the Community Information Session is provided in section 3 of this report.

In designing the Community Information Session, timing, location, display materials and project expertise were considered. The following points outline how these items were considered as part of the methodology to achieve the objectives listed in section 1 of this report.

2.4.1 Timing

The session was held on Monday 1 August between 3.00pm – 7.30pm. The timing of the Community Information Session was selected to maximise opportunities for people to attend and accommodate; those who wished to attend outside of school hours or outside of standard working hours; those who worked outside of the local community and may have an extended commute after work; evening parental or carers responsibilities and weekend sports or social commitments.

It also coincided with school pick up time, to allow parents to drop by and soccer training at the same facility to allow anyone interested to drop in and attend the information session.



2.4.2 Location

The Information Session was held at the Hill Top Community Centre, 30 Cumbertine Street, Hill Top, NSW 2575. This location was identified after consultation with Wingecarribe Council and chosen because of its accessibility and suitability.

2.4.3 Display materials

The Information Session featured many displays depicting; detailed designs of the proposed 50m and 500m ranges; two video presentations; architectural drawings; photos of works already completed at the 800m range to reduce noise impacts and a timeline of the planning process.

The following items were also on display:

- Site plan
- Asset Protection Zone Plan
- Cross-section of 500m range
- Cross-section of 50m range
- Roof plan for 500m range
- Elevations of 500m range
- Roof plan for 50m range
- Typical plan control point
- Landscape designs, including access road, 50m, 500m range 1 & 2
- Perspectives
- Civil works
- Safety template plan
- Acoustic impact



2.4.4 Project Team Support

Experienced Project Team members were available at the session to discuss the proposed modifications with the community, hear feedback from attendees and answer any of their questions.

Team members present at the session included Michael Bangel, Vicki Haddock, Jeff Lewis, Philip Dean and Peter Lee from the Office of Sport; Robyn Ginger from the International Shooting Centre; and Naomi Rowe and Richelle Pellegrini from KJA.

2.5 Community Information Session Feedback Forms

To support the Community Information Session, a feedback form was distributed to attendees. Participants were invited to complete the forms and hand to a team member prior to leaving or complete the form and return it via mail or email.

A copy of the community feedback form can be found in Attachment D.

2.6 Online feedback Form

Community members and stakeholders were also given the option to provide via the feedback form on the Office of Sport website www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about/SHRSC/publications.

2.7 Email feedback

Another channel to provide feedback was via the project email address SHRSCfeedback@kjassoc.com.au. Feedback was invited between 1-9 August 2016, with this information included on community feedback forms.

2.8 Factsheet

A Factsheet was produced by the Office of Sport and provided to attendees at the Community Information Session.

The factsheet provided community members an overview of the project and the proposed modifications and a link to the Office of Sport website to view all of the relevant planning documentation for the proposed modifications.

A copy of the factsheet can be found in Attachment E.

2.9 Website information

A dedicated project page was established on the Office of Sport website and promoted in letters, invitations, advertisements, community flyers, factsheets and feedback forms as part of promoting the Community Information Session.

The project page provided a link to the online feedback form, and included access to publications and technical reports associated with the project and the proposed modifications. It also included information on the Community Information Session www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about/shrsc/planning.

Between 19 July and 9 August the website received 350 unique views, this included the period before and after the Community information session.

A copy of the website can be found in Attachment F.

2.10 Media briefing

Southern Highlands News attended the Community Information Session, where they were provided a briefing and the opportunity to view the Community Information Session in progress and the display materials. An Office of Sport media statement was provided to the Southern Highlands News on Tuesday 2 August 2016 and to ABC Radio Illawarra on 8 August 2016.

3. Feedback evaluation and results

As part of the process of making an application to seek approval for modifications to the planning consent for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex (the Complex) granted in 2010, the Office of Sport undertook targeted stakeholder engagement and an open Community Information Session.

The Community Information Session was held on 1 August in Hill Top and feedback mechanisms were made available to the community until 9 August 2016. During this time, 57 people attended the Community Information Session and/or provided feedback via hard copy feedback form, online feedback form, submission, phone or email.

The format of the Community Information Session and feedback process allowed for wide ranging discussions. Many participants raised more than one area of interest, some participants raised 3 or 4 different issues.

Feedback provided to project team members during the Community Information Session was captured in field notes. These notes combined with feedback forms and submissions were analysed with the most common issues raised grouped for further analysis.

The following is an analysis of the feedback provided.

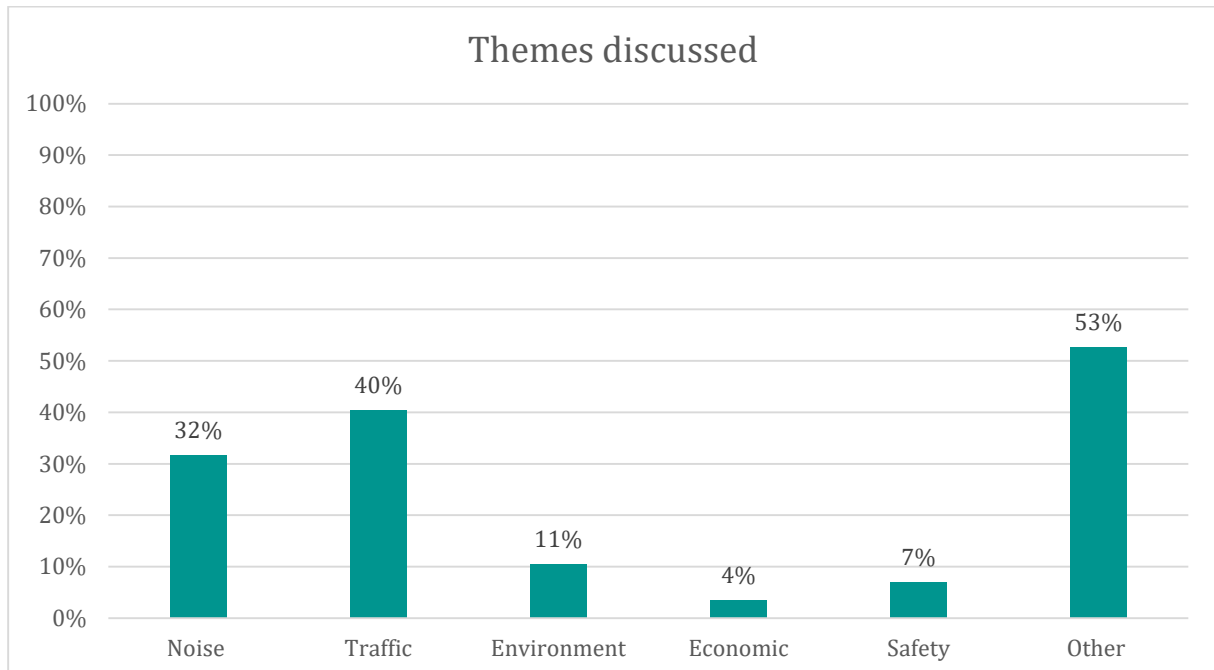
3.1 Themes discussed

The most commonly raised issues included; noise, traffic, the environment, the local economy, and safety and security related matters.

Due to the format of the Information Session and focus on participant lead discussions, it is not surprising the largest category of discussion topics is “other”. Topics in this area included the operation and activities of the complex, membership, competitions and amenities available. This grouping indicates a majority of participants (53%) wished to discuss general information about the complex, rather than the specific detail of application.

Traffic and Noise related matters were the most commonly discussed topics, mentioned by 40% and 32% of participants respectively. Environment, economic and safety and security issues were mentioned significantly fewer times and could be considered a low priority by those who participated in the engagement process.

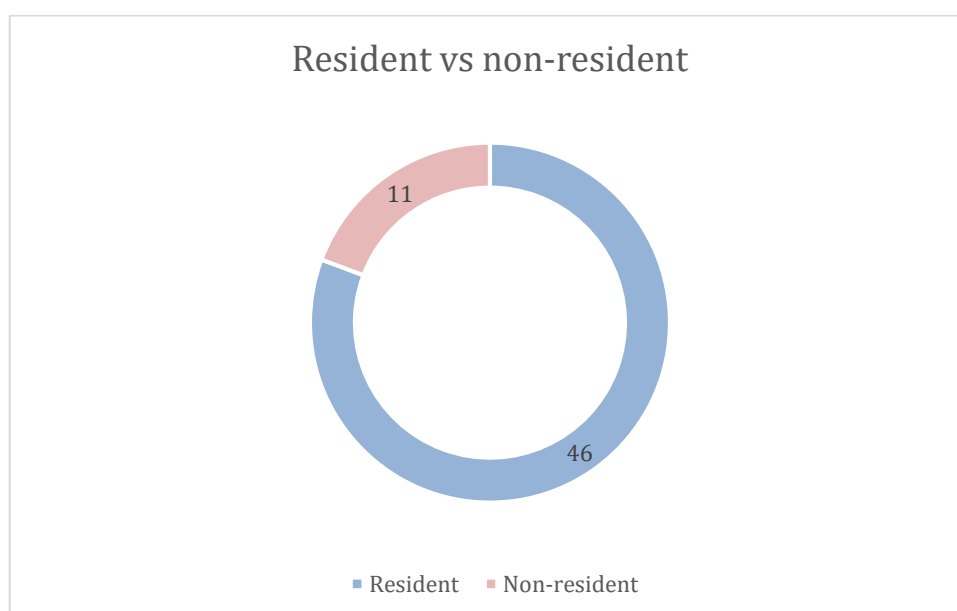
The prevalence of Traffic and Noise related matters in the Community Information Session and associated feedback is consistent with feedback the Office of Sport has received through targeted stakeholder engagement.



3.2 Residents and Non-residents

The Community of Hill Top, according to the 2011 census, has a population of 2,500. Of the 57 people who participated in the engagement process, 46 people were identified as residents of Hill Top and 11 were identified as non-residents.

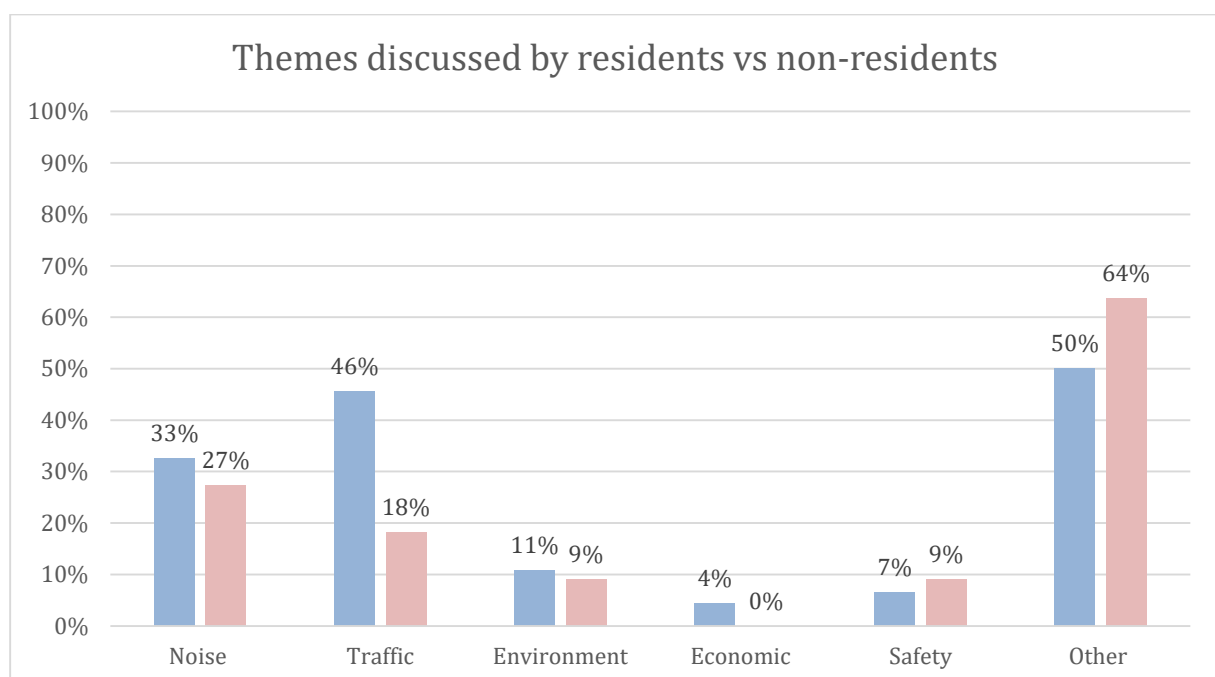
The majority of non-residents identified as living in the nearby communities of Moss Vale, Colo Vale and the Southern Highlands. One non-resident identified as living in Terrey Hills, a suburb of Northern Sydney.



Analysis by group has been included below to identify any differences in the interests between residents and non-residents.

While both groups displayed a strong interest in discussing general matters; Residents raised traffic related matters significantly more often than non-residents and noise related matters slightly more often than non-residents. These results indicate traffic is priority local matter and noise related topics are important to both groups.

Interestingly non-residents raised safety and security related issues more often than residents. This is consistent with non-residents raising general Complex related matters more frequently.



3.3 Support or Opposition

 7%

of the 57 people who participated in the process made it known that they are **opposed** to the complex and/or application

While those who participated in the engagement process and Community Information Session were not specifically asked by Project Team Members if they supported or opposed the Complex and/or application to modify the planning consent, a number of participants volunteered this information.

Of the 57 people who participated in the process, 7% made it known they were opposed to the application and/or Complex and 26% made it known they were supportive of the application and/or Complex.

 **26%**

of people who participated made it known that they are **supportive** of the complex and/or application

While, it is important to note the majority of participants did not declare a position, the small number of participants who made it known they were opposed to the Complex and/or application may indicate a possible shift in community sentiment from previous years.

3.4 Traffic

The feedback from the Community Information Session clearly indicated traffic and traffic related matters were priority matters for those who participated in the process and a higher priority for local residents of Hill Top. Overall, of those who participated in the engagement process 40% raised traffic related matters. This number increases to 46% when considering the topics most commonly raised by residents.



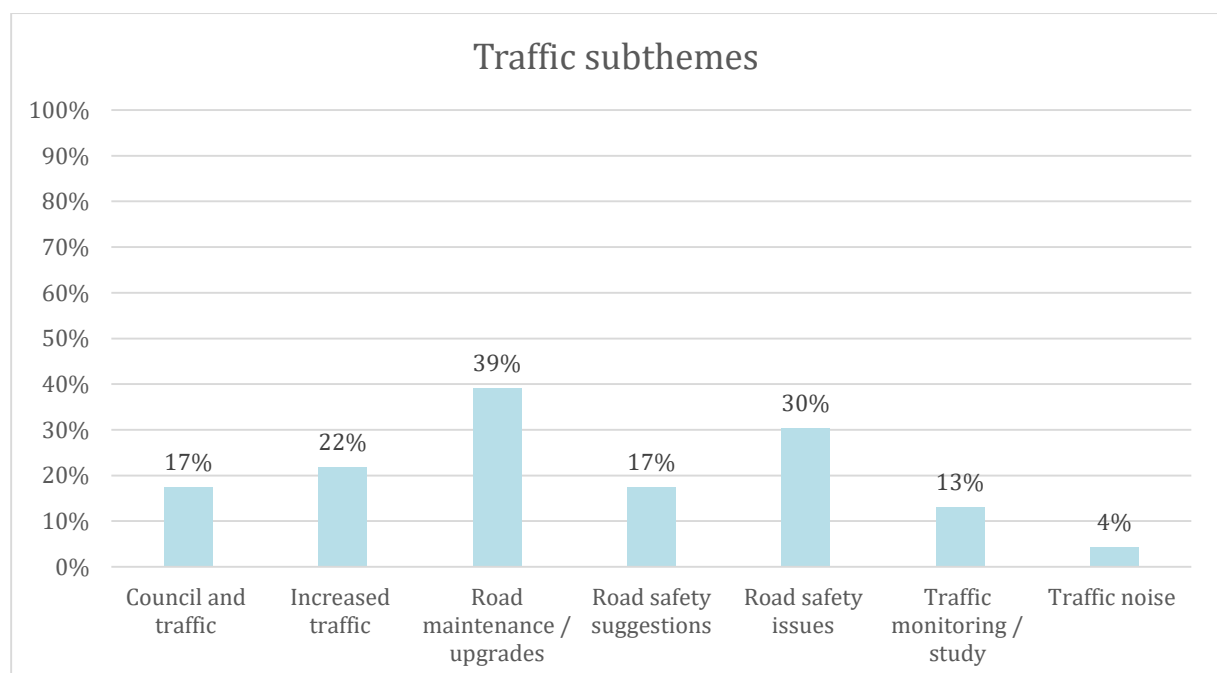
40%

of people who participated raised **TRAFFIC** related issues

As previously stated, this level of frequency by residents indicates this is an important topic for local consideration.

Traffic related matters raised included the potential for increased traffic and subsequent road safety impacts, specifically relating to children bike riding, road maintenance, and safe entry and egress to Hill Top along Wilson Drive. Other concerns included the need for additional road signage, reduced speed zones, and the current poor road conditions including which authority will pay for road improvements and maintenance.

Traffic related matters were categorised into sub-themes for further analysis. As the table illustrates, road maintenance, upgrades, and road safety issues were the most common subthemes, mentioned in 69% of discussions regarding traffic related matters.



Both the current and potential future volumes of traffic on local roads and dirt roads in the village and between the village and the complex, combined with the quality of these roads were raised as concerns in the community information session. Participants indicated that the current roads were in need of maintenance and not suited to increased volume for construction or events. Residents were also eager to communicate suggestions for improved road safety, including signage and traffic calming devices to the main roads of Wilson Drive and West Parade.

A number of residents raised concerns about increased traffic volume in the village. However, a number who raised this issue in discussion also recognised that the increased traffic through the village would contribute to increased economic benefits for the village.

In response to these concerns the Office of Sport Project Team members advised the community of the results from an independent traffic study and confirmed the existing commitment in the planning consent for the Office of Sport to contribute to the maintenance and grading of the unsealed section of Wattle Ridge Road to the SHRSC.

The following is a table of comments specifically related to traffic.

Specific comments traffic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilson Drive is in poor disrepair and increased traffic will worsen its condition • Increased traffic could have dangerous impacts on safety especially on children and dogs • There needs to be more signage on all surrounding roads to reduce speed • The main road into town needs to be widened to reduce the risk of accidents • Wilson Drive is a dangerous road that has many bad accidents as it is, without the increased traffic expected • The power poles are too close to the road which poses a fire threat in the event of an accident • Who is going to pay for upgrading and maintaining the roads due to increased traffic? It should not be up to the local residents to foot the bill • The road surface on Wattle Ridge Road needs to be resurfaced • Maintenance on sealed Council roads is poor • Increased traffic during construction will damage the roads • Traffic needs to be monitored and roads upgraded accordingly • There should be a peer review of the next Traffic Management Study undertaken • The cycling network should be considered as part of the next Traffic Management Study as Wattle Ridge Road forms an important link • There needs to be a speed assessment study conducted and speed zones aligned to reflect the results • Concerns that Coates Road (dirt road) will be used as a short-cut • There should be an alternate access to the site • Line marking is not completed on the main roads • Concerns the area is a link to a cycle network and increased traffic will pose a threat to cyclists

3.5 Noise

Following the unsuccessful application to modify the planning consent in 2012, the Office of Sport considered noise to be the most significant community concern in relation to the Complex.



32%

of people who participated raised **NOISE** related issues

A significant number of elements included in the application related to noise. These items included noise monitoring and compliance reporting processes and alignment with Environmental Protection Authority standards and industry best practice.

Of residents and non-residents who participated 32% raised noise related matters during the engagement process. 7% of those who participated in the consultation process commented that noise was not an issue for them. However, it is important to note, this was not the most frequently raised topic, other general matters and traffic were raised more often than noise during the engagement process.

The session highlighted stakeholders' desire for more detail and a greater understanding about the proposed modifications and any resultant noise impacts for local residents, including noise levels, noise testing, monitoring and compliance.

There was a suggestion that real-time noise monitoring data should be made available online for local residents to monitor noise levels as well as a hotline for residents to report breaches.

Specific comments Noise

- There should be a live feed on noise levels available on the internet
- Hotline to report noise breaches to stop shooting
- Permanent monitors should be installed on all adjoining properties
- Noise levels should not exceed 75dB on any occasion
- The averaging of shots should be eliminated from noise testing
- If averaging of shots continues to be used for purposes of noise testing the average should be lower than 75dB so that it is not exceeded
- Off-road motorbikes on Coates Road cause more noise than the shooting range

3.6 Environment



11%

of people who participated raised **ENVIRONMENT** related issues

11% of people who participated raised environment related issues.

Concerns were raised about the potential environmental impacts of the proposed modifications, particularly relating to the effect of noise on local wildlife – particularly birds – and whether nearby bushwalking trails and cycle paths would be impacted.

Specific comments Environment

- Concerns the noise will drive away wildlife from the area especially birds
- Concerns the community are losing access to the National Park
- Concerned about safety of bushwalkers on the Starlight Walkway Trail which is nearby

3.7 Economic

Four percent of people who participated raised economic related issues. This percentage represents two people – both of whom were residents. This suggests that there was a low level of interest around this theme.



4%

of people who participated raised **ECONOMIC** related issues

Comments were in relation to the impact of the complex on businesses in town. This included potential opportunities for local businesses to supply goods and services for events or day to day operations. It was also suggested that increased traffic would deliver economic benefits for local businesses.

3.8 Safety and security

Seven percent of people who participated raised safety and security related issues.

Concerns were raised about safety and security practices on site – for example, how guns are transported to and from the venue; how they are kept safe and locked away in the complex, and that the walls at the 50m range line should be thick enough that no bullet can penetrate them for safety during shooting. These discussions were in reference to both current and future practices. There was some discussion around the legislation and restrictions around firearm use. The Manager of the complex was in attendance at the community information session to address queries related to this issue. The Manger outlined current legislation as well as best practice in relation to day-to-day operations and event days.



7%

of people who participated raised **SAFETY & SECURITY** related issues

4. Proposal to modify Complex

The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex was first established in 1988. The complex provides a base for shooting clubs in the Illawarra, Western Sydney and Southern Highlands regions.

Located at Hill Top, the complex is surrounded by bush, with the nearest residence located more than 2.5kms away.

The NSW Government has allocated \$7.7 million to complete the 500m and 50m ranges, along with the necessary amenities to support the expansion, such as toilets, car parking spaces, and office and control points.

The proposal involves the transfer of more than 2,800 hectares of land to the State's National Park and Reserve system under an offset package, which involves shooting clubs merging and relinquishing their traditional home ranges.

The proposed modification to the complex will comply with strict controls and regulations, including the NSW Firearms Registry and the Environmental Protection Authority, as well as the conditions of approval set by the Department of Planning and Environment. This will help to ensure the complex is safe, environmentally appropriate, meets best practice standards and minimises any potential impacts on its neighbours and the surrounding community.

To date, the project has come under opposition from some sections of the local community, including the HTRAG and environment groups. The previous modification application (Modification 4) for the project was rejected by the Planning Assessment Committee in 2012.

Community feedback on the Modification 4 application centred on concerns about noise, including increased levels, testing and compliance, as well as concerns about increased traffic and impacts on the surrounding environment.

The Office of Sport took this feedback into consideration during the development of the current proposed modifications, specifically seeking to reduce noise levels by implementing best practice noise management (testing and compliance) under Environmental Protection Authority guidelines, as well as implementing physical on site measures to reduce traffic and environmental impacts.

Please refer to **Section 75W – Modification to Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex Approval – Major Project No. 06_0232** for further specific detail regarding the application to modify the planning consent.

5. Overview of consultation and engagement

Communication, engagement and consultation activities outlined in this report are for the period between January and August 2016, and build on activities undertaken by the Office of Sport prior to the community information session. The feedback collated and assessed in this report is from the community information session, but for the purposes of providing a single reference for all communications and engagement undertaken by the Office of Sport, activities prior to the information session have been included.

A stakeholder consultation-planning workshop was undertaken by the Office of Sport in March 2016 with key representatives of the Range Management Committee for the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex.

The Office of Sport has also had regular engagement with Wingecarribee Shire Council to discuss issues such as traffic management, road upgrades and maintenance, signage and noise compliance testing.

There has also been ongoing communication and engagement with other key stakeholders such as the Minister for Sport, Minister for Environment, Department of Planning & Environment, Environmental Protection Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Shooting Range Management Committee and the Hill Top Residents Action Group Incorporated.

6. Conclusions

The stakeholder communication, engagement and consultation activities undertaken by the Office of Sport enabled the project team to inform the local community and receive feedback about the proposed modification to the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex. Importantly, the activities gave the project team an opportunity to identify and address key concerns prior to their submission to the Department of Planning and Environment.

The Community Information Session and feedback process would be considered a success with 57 people participating in the process, many of them local residents. The session allowed meaningful and engaging dialogue to take place between interested community members and project team members who were able to address key areas of interest. Many attendees expressed support for the project along with a few residents who provided feedback by letter and via the website.

Much of the interest expressed at the Community Information Session was of a general nature, with many seeking more information about the complex, its facilities, competitions, days and hours of operating, and when the modified complex would open. There were a number of competitive shooters also in attendance at the session who wanted more detail on the design of the facility.

Another key area of interest was the impact of traffic, particularly around increased traffic, safety concerns and road upgrade and maintenance.

The Office of Sport assured community members that it would continue to work closely with Wingecarribee Shire Council to address any traffic impacts and confirmed they will provide funding to support regular maintenance needs for Wattle Ridge Road.

The Office of Sport also informed residents that an independent traffic management report would be undertaken after 12 months of operation. This report would identify changes to traffic conditions and assess whether additional works were required to reduce impacts on the community.

The Office of Sport is committed to continuing engagement with the community and informing them on project milestones reached during the planning approval process, including advising them of the public exhibition period when determined by the Department of Planning and Environment. Updated information will be made available via the project's webpage on the Office of Sport's website.

7. Appendix

Appendix A



22 July 2016

The Householder

Hill Top NSW 2575

Dear Resident,

As an important stakeholder of the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex project, we would like to invite you to an upcoming community information session to be held at the Hill Top Community Centre on Monday 1 August.

The purpose of the information session will be to **share details on the new modifications** to the original plan and to **gain feedback** from the community to **inform the planning process**.

The NSW Office of Sport has assessed community feedback around noise mitigation, impacts on the environment and local traffic. Community members are invited to drop in and meet the project team and learn more on how the project is progressing.

A report will be prepared as part of the planning submission that details stakeholder feedback received. This report will also be available by August on our website below with the other project details.

Where: Hill Top Community Centre
30 Cumbertine Street, Hill Top

When: Monday 1 August, 2016

Time: 3.00pm – 7.30pm

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your feedback on Monday 1 August.

If you cannot make the Information Session the proposed new modifications can be viewed at <https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about/shrsc/planning>.

Comments can be left at the above link or by calling 13 13 02.

Kind Regards,



Michael Bangel
Director Asset Management

Appendix B

Advertisement

Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex

Community Information Session

Community members are invited to an information session to learn more about plans progressing to improve the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex. The purpose of the information session will be to share details on the new modifications to the original plan and to gain feedback from the community to inform the planning process.

The NSW Office of Sport has assessed community feedback including noise mitigation, impacts on the environment and local traffic. Community members are invited to drop in and meet the project team and learn more on how the project is progressing.

Where: Hill Top Community Centre
30 Cumbertine Street, Hill Top
When: Monday 1 August, 2016
Time: 3.00pm – 7.30pm

The proposed new modifications can be viewed at
<https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about/shrsc/planning>



Appendix C

Community Update | July 2016

Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex

Community Information Session

Community members are invited to an information session to learn more about plans progressing to improve the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex. The purpose of the information session will be to share details on the new modifications to the original plan and to gain feedback from the community to inform the planning process.

The NSW Office of Sport has assessed community feedback including noise mitigation, impacts on the environment and local traffic. Community members are invited to drop in and meet the project team and learn more on how the project is progressing.

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Appendix E

Fact Sheet

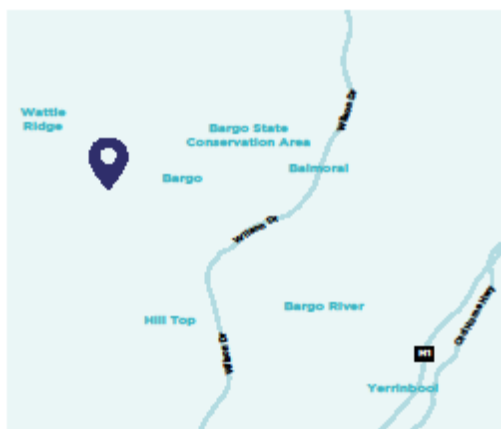
Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex

Fact Sheet

The NSW Government is carrying out improvements to the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex used by shooting clubs based in the Illawarra, Western Sydney and Southern Highlands Region. The Office of Sport will take over responsibility for the management of all the ranges in September 2016.

The Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex project was originally approved in 2010 and \$7.7 million in NSW Government funding has been committed to complete the 500m and 50m ranges and upgrade the existing 800m range which has been in use for 26 years.

As part of an ongoing consultation process, the Office of Sport will invite community feedback on the plans to improve noise mitigation and environmental impacts. After assessing the feedback, a submission to modify the original consent will be made to the Department of Planning and Environment to improve the noise and environmental impacts on the community.



To view the details of the proposed modifications please visit www.sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/about/shrsc/planning.


Modifications are now proposed to the original consent to further reduce the impacts on the local environment and community including:

- Noise limits to remain at 75dB at all ranges
- Moving Noise Assessment to best-practice under EPA Guidelines
- Acoustic shelters and barriers are now in place on the existing 800 metre range
- Acoustic shelters will be built at the new 500 metre and 50 metre ranges
- Large earth mounds to be built at the 500m and 50m ranges to reduce noise levels
- Firing lines at both new ranges to be built close to ground level to reduce noise levels
- Compliance monitoring results will be shown on website within seven days and undertaken as required by the EPA
- Design of stopbutts to be improved to meet best management for lead at outdoor shooting ranges (US)

Compliance and noise regulation will be overseen by the EPA and the Complex managed by the Office of Sport as a public facility.

As part of the proposal a Traffic Management Study and further noise testing will be completed after the facility opens.

Appendix F



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Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex

The NSW Government is carrying out improvements to the 50m and 500m ranges at the Southern Highlands Regional Shooting Complex to ensure it performs safely well into the future for shooting clubs from the Illawarra, Western Sydney and Southern Highlands Region. The Office of Sport will take over responsibility for the management of all the ranges in September 2016.

The project was originally approved in 2010 and \$7.7 million in NSW Government funding has been committed to complete the 500m and 50m ranges and upgrade the existing 800m range which has been in use for 26 years.

As part of an ongoing consultation process, the Office of Sport will invite community feedback on the plans to improve noise mitigation and environmental impacts. After assessing the feedback, a submission to modify the original consent will be made to the Department of Planning and Environment for approval.

The proposed modifications include providing large earth mounds to reduce noise levels at the new 50m and 500m ranges and lowering the 500m range firing point closer to ground level to further reduce noise levels. Increased safety and environmental management methods are included in the revised design for the stop-butts at both new ranges.

Recent works at the facility include installation of acoustic barriers and an acoustic shelter at the existing 800m range in response to community concerns about the noise levels.

The project also involves the transfer of more than 2,800 hectares of land to the State's National Park and Reserve system under an offset package as shooting clubs merge and relinquish other parcels of land at their home ranges.

Ranges at the site would comply with strict controls to ensure they are safe, environmentally appropriate and meet best practice. Ranges would also comply with regulations of the NSW Firearms Registry and EPA NSW as well as the conditions of approval set by the Department of Planning and Environment.

The Office of Sport will continue to consult with users, the local community and other stakeholders to ensure the complex remains compliant, safe and meets best practice.

The Office of Sport has also been working with Wingecarribee Shire Council to identify and mitigate any potential traffic impacts and will carry out a traffic management study one year after opening the new complex.

View proposed modifications →

Have your say

You are welcome to provide feedback on the proposed modifications by 9 August 2016 using the form below.



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