



Re: SEPP (Infrastructure) Amendment (Shooting Ranges) 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Proposed SEPP (Infrastructure) Amendment (Shooting Ranges) 2016.

Since the exhibition of the previous draft of this amendment we have undertaken further consultation with constituents. As a result, while we accept there is a case to ensure that existing shooting ranges are a permitted use on the land they occupy, The Greens have serious objections to allowing 'range danger areas' to be expanded onto publicly owned land.

Specifically, the NSW Greens object to any expansion of 'range danger areas', which are areas specifically for the purpose of catching stray bullets, into the following zones:

- Public Recreation
- Environmental Conservation
- Forestry

In each of these zones the land is publicly owned and the public can reasonably expect access. It is unacceptable that these lands be alienated from public use because adjoining rifle ranges want to send stray bullets into them.

Recently the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service have excluded the public from popular walking trails in the vicinity of the Hornsby Rifle Range following changes to the layout of shooting ranges on the Rifle Range. This privatisation of well-loved public open space is not acceptable. Moreover, this proposed amendment can essentially ensure that similar privatisation of public land will occur elsewhere across the State.

Under the NSW Police Force Fire Arms Registry advice ([Link](#)) a shooting range is inclusive of the 'range danger area template'. That the government would consider essentially handing over publicly owned land to become part of a shooting range is entirely unacceptable.

The NSW Greens take the view that any existing shooting range should operate within the confines of its existing site. By allowing 'range danger areas' to be approved beyond the existing shooting range sites, the government is encouraging shooting ranges to operate so they impact well beyond their existing sites. As the Hornsby Rifle Range shows, changes of shooting range layout can have very significant off-site impacts on the 'range danger area'. The government should not be giving shooters ready access to additional public land to extend the operational size of these facilities.

The Department should also be aware of the public scepticism as to the motives behind this proposal. Given the dependence of the government on the crossbench support of the



David Shoebridge MLC
Member of the NSW Legislative Council

**The Greens NSW
Submission
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Shooters Party for a range of unpalatable legislative proposals recently it is difficult to see this proposal as anything other than payback for favours, either past or future.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office at david.shoebridge@parliament.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9230 3030 if you have any questions regarding this submission or require further information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Shoebridge', written in a cursive style.

David Shoebridge
Greens NSW MP