



Aberdeen Rifle Club



Club Approval Nos
Target 405655283
Hunting 405655291
Collecting 405655304

36 Parker St
Scone NSW
233

Date: 10/5/04

J. Jobling,
Administrator,
Upper Hunter Shire Council.

John,
You are probably not aware of our concerns regarding the sudden eviction notice given to this Club in January this year.

Scone Shire Council decided to attempt to sell off land at Aberdeen to private developers last year and formally gave this Club notice to quit without prior notification or consultation.

To a sporting Club using Council land this is a blow that possibly could see the death of this 103 year old Club the oldest established Club in Aberdeen.

You could get an insight into the feelings of our sixty plus members if you were to tell Scone Football Club that you were selling off Scone Park for development. The reaction would tear the Council apart.

This Club has quietly gone about its business providing a facility and Range at no cost to Council for the Sporting Firearms owners of this and surrounding Shires since 1901.

It caters for Aberdeen Rifle Club, Aberdeen Hunting Club, Valley Brook hunting Club, Quirindi Rifle Club, S.S.A.A., N.S.W.R.A., National Parks and Wildlife, St. Helliers Correctional Center and members of 12/16 H.R.L.

It caters for the needs of aprox. 1/3 of this Shires Adult population who are Firearms Owners and need to comply with the requirements of the Firearms Legislation.

Finding sufficient land for relocation at such short notice is almost impossible without assistance, and although Council has offered to help we feel that it is not a genuine offer.

We are currently asking the Acting General Manager for an extension of time on our notice which is due to expire on 9th July. If this land has not been sold and there is no immediate sale in sight, we would appreciate your input on our behalf for an extension of time or a more positive outcome for us.



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The Land that we occupy is only a very small portion of Valley View Estate, with a smattering of waterways passing through it that would cause problems with the proposed plan as depicted.

Our Southern Boundary is against Dartbrook Coal Land and our Range is subject to dust Fallout. It would take more than Dartbrooks proposed Plantation to filter the Finings from the air that have already caused us to replace our paper targets with plastic to stop Coal dust contamination.

The members of this club and associated users of this Range find it hard to understand the disregard shown to us and our associate Club, the Upper Hunter Gun Club, who have also been given preliminary notice by Council to quit their sight on Gundy Rd. Whilst Muswellbrook Council has opened two new firearms ranges and given maximum assistance and support in relocation, Scone is trying to shut them down.

Obviously Long John Colvins Military background allows him to appreciate the need for these type of sporting facilities whereas Scones ex council had a more closed view or possibly gave it no consideration.

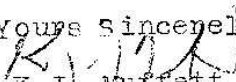
There must be alternatives without the combined Firearms owners becoming Political. We had nominated three members for Council Elections that were squashed due to Amalgamation, now with a bigger electorate, and possibly Merriwa included, we feel that we would not get sufficient representation on a future Council to force a Recission motion or create a more positive plan. Although we will keep this option open.

Possibly some thought could be given to a new shooting complex within the Shire catering for the needs of all Firearms Disciplines, the proposed complex at Cessnock having fallen through.

If we thought that the residents of Aberdeen would benefit from the sale of this land we could understand, but we feel that the chances of this are slim as any income would simply be swallowed up by an enlarged Shire as such.

I appreciate that you have a lot on your plate at the moment, but as the only surviving Federation Fullbore Rifle Club in the Hunter Valley, with a history dating back to before the turn of the last century, we would ask you to give us more consideration than was given by the previous Council prior to our notification to quit.

Yours Sincerely,


K. J. Muffett.
Captain