



UPPER HUNTER SHIRE COUNCIL

Contact Name: Wayne Cossens
Contact No: (02) 6540 1124
Our Reference: 01/3115/0125

3 September, 2004

Mr K J Muffett
Captain
Aberdeen Rifle Club
36 Parker Street
SCONE NSW 2337

Dear Mr Muffett

Aberdeen Rifle Range

Reference is made to your telephone conversation with Wayne Cossens this afternoon.

The Scone Advocate on 26 August 2004 contained a small article headed "Aberdeen shooters reprieved", which was a synopsis of the business paper considered by Council.

The Scone Advocate on 2 September 2004 contained two letters to the editor - from "Proud Local Shooter" and Michael Moore, Denman - which contained inaccurate and misinformed statements regarding Council's actions.

As you are aware:

- You had a meeting with Mr John Jobling, Administrator, Mr Wayne Cossens and Mr Ron Wakem (Scone Gun Club) on 31 April 2004.
- At the meeting, Council re-iterated its offer to help the Clubs with government departments and investigating grants.
- It was agreed that the Clubs would -
 - investigate alternative locations, including in the former shires of Merriwa and Murrurundi;
 - prepare a submission for Council;
 - identify the exact size of the Clubs' needs, the property, ownership;
 - discuss with neighbouring property owners and involve them in the noise tests as it was necessary to have them on-side, prior to submitting a DA, preferably getting their written permission,and then Council will see what avenues there are to follow-up.
- Council recently granted a further extension of time to March 2005 for the submission to be prepared.

I acknowledge your advice that you do not know the writers of the letters. However, it is apparent that the letters to the editor were not solely based on the article in the Scone Advocate.

I am concerned that there are members of your Club who may be publicly and inappropriately criticizing Council when it is clear that Council is trying to help.

I would be grateful if you would raise these concerns with your members as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

D N Dutton
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

FOR UPPER HUNTER SHIRE - A QUALITY RURAL LIFESTYLE

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