



Cooloola Range Complex

Association Incorporation

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Affiliates
Gympie Pistol Club Inc
Gympie Clay Target Club Inc
Gympie Sporting Clays Inc
Gympie Small Bore Rifle
& Silhouette Club Inc,
Gympie Service Rifle Club Inc
Shooters Union (Qld Branch) Inc.

Attention :

The Chief Executive Officer & All Councillors,
Gympie Regional Council
Re Submission to Planning Strategy and Major Projects Branch
P.O. Box 155,
Gympie, 4570.
5th January 2015
planningprojects@gympie.qld.gov.au

RE- SUBMISSION On District Shooting Facility - Feasibility and Option Analysis.

Dear Sirs and Madams.

Representation.

Our Association represents the members of the above listed affiliated Incorporate Association which number approximately 1250 local persons and we have to speak for the vast majority of licensed shooters who are not in any of the associations yet use their facilities, or wish to use our planned combined shooting facility on the Wood Road Corella Southern block.

The Wait.

1.) Since the State put the railway line through the Victory Range, in 1992 we have been constantly told by the State and Council to “Wait”. The justice that we were denied in 1992 delayed, is justice denied. We have learnt through bitter experience that the word “Wait” to government and their employees, has the same meaning as “Never”. The last 15 year history of this saga has been a political scandal. Unlike, other recreational pursuits Licensed Shooters have to be members of shooting clubs and associations, Pistol Shooters are required by law to attend six times a year for each class of hand gun they own. Every time government legislates, forcing these attendances on shooters, they say “Wait” and promise that land and facilities will be provided by the governments. In reality, all that occurs is further closures of ranges and further pressures on range facilities that are left. We earnestly hope all those precedents are over and this time we will live to see the result of genuine commitment, representative of the large amount of shooting participants in our region.

Our Association Opposes All Range Evictions.

2.) The Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc. has and will always oppose the eviction of any shooting club or association from any current facility, our association is entrusted by its members to increase the number of facilities for the licenced shooters in and out of our region.

This is one of the primary objects of our Incorporated Constitution (Model Rules)

The Options.

3.) In the Ross Planning study at **'9.6 Recommended overall options'** it recommends five options and in doing so omits the most obvious clear path. It is hard to imagine why when a Council pays for an investigation into making a decision on a course of action that the writer takes the money and throws the decision back, (returning the ball) with five haggardly options which seem designed particularly to divide, confuse and disrupt a unified position from the different shooting sports.

The CRCA Option.

4.) Our Association recommends the same position that it has had from its inception that Council should leave the current shooting facilities in their current positions with long term secure leases so they can plan and commit to work that keeps them and their neighbours safe from incursion and noise complaints. Whilst, taking speedy advantage of the Minister Agreement-in-Principle to assist the Cooloola Range Complex Association to develop and host the Corella (Not Curra) Forestry Southern block (Wood Rd) for the use of the Shooting Sports (including Archery) Gympie Service Rifle, Shooters Union, Queensland Indoor Air Rifle Association, and so Gympie Pistol Club can then at its own pace develop 200 metre Pistol Centre-fire at Corella as an adjunct to its current club facilities, and Small bore & Silhouette Club can develop an extra 200 metre range on the Corella site, leaving the rest of the site to accommodate any other clubs who due to future range closures needs the space to re locate ie. Cowboy Action, Sporting Clays, Colonial Black Powder clubs, etc. Indicative cost to Council- **NIL**

Fairness Option In Reserve.

5.) However, if the Council did as stated by Mayor Ron Dyne at meeting with Minister Steve Dixon want to develop the two south and north of the railway line Range blocks for housing, where it would sell billions of dollars in prime real estate, and have the benefit of the rates on those blocks forever, we believe that it would be only just for council to compensate the clubs, to relocate to the Corella Forestry Site as they have worked to supply the Gympie Region with these facilities free of charge for 60 years.

In Support Of Recommended Option. Appendix One.

6.) In support of this recommendation to the Gympie Regional Council we include Appendix 1 Table in support of this submission correcting mistakes in the Ross Planning , District Shooting Facility - Feasibility and Option Analysis.

In Support Of Recommended Option. Appendix Two.

7.) Appendix 2. A copy of the Petition .

As I am the primary petitioner in the Petition now submitted in support of the Shooting Complex at the Corella South (Wood Rd) forestry signed by 463 petitioners, we require the Gympie Regional Council to accept each one of those Petitioners as individual submission if favour of the Shooting complex on the Corella South site.

On Gympie Regional Council website address as follows

<https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/petitions>

It states,

"Petitions can be used as a form of submission on active development applications during the

public notification stage.”

It also describes the petitioning process, “The petition, if received by council at a council meeting, will not be debated at that meeting. It will be referred by the Chief Executive Officer to the relevant council department for action and response.”

“Council will formally notify the lead petitioner within seven days of the petition's presentation to council.”

We believe that Cr Wayne Sachs has presented the Petition and the Petition has been received at a Council meeting, but we have not received any notification either in regard to the presentation nor Council response, or its Council department response, or any action.

So at this time we would appreciate those petitioners who are requesting a shooting facility at the Corella site be considered at this time.

In Support Of Recommended Option. Appendix Three.

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/closed-e-petitions>

8.) Councillors should be reminded that before parliament is another separate parliamentary E. petition now closed with Mr Doug Austin, The honourable Secretary of CRCA as the primary petitioner with 851 electronic signatures, that petition for the immediate excise of this land for the use as a (Multi discipline) Shooting Complex on the Corella South (Wood Road) site. So at this time we would like the wishes of these petitioner taken into consideration by the Councillors as they are making their decisions on the future of the shooting sports in the Gympie Region.

In Support Of Recommended Option. Appendix Four.

All previous submissions in support of the Corella Shooting Facility.

9.) We have been told by Mr Barnard Smith the Gympie Regional Council CEO that Council had received over 300 submission objecting to the Ross Planning Track Trails Study and supporting the Shooting Complex on the Corella Forestry Site, South Wood Rd that caused the Track and Trails Study to be subsequently amended to allow the shooting facility on this site. We submit that as these submission were only made in September 2014 within the two weeks allowed on the Track and Trail study which was the same block of land and submission were in the same cause they should be included in Council’s deliberations on this subject as Acting Mayor Cr Perret stated on the 10th December 2014 in his media statement,

“...as well as assisting Council to understand the current situation before any decisions are made. This included determining the feasibility of locating a facility of this nature within the State forest and identifying the most suitable location, having regard to current use, the interests of all stakeholders and any site constraints.

....it is important Council now seeks feedback from the wider community in order to fully understand the views on each of the possible options and we welcome the views of all interested parties.”

These submissions were from interested parties who wanted to ensure that Gympie Regional Councillors fully understood that they wanted that site for a shooting facility.

The Gympie Shooting Population.

10.) When the CRCA first submission was first tendered to the State government in 2003, the Queensland Police informed our Association that there were 11,000 licensed shooters in the Gympie region. Per a recent article in the Courier Mail 2010 the area still has the highest per

head of population in Queensland with over 15 000 licenced shooters in the region. (then in 2013, 18,000 licenced shooters) As the pressure on shooting clubs to the south of us has increased and due to the fact that we have had 47,000 new licensed shooters in 2013 in Queensland, (16 % increase on the year before, even with an increase of 126 % in Shooters licence fees) many shooters are already travelling to compete from North Brisbane, joining our clubs and enjoying our well established facilities. Our club memberships, due to our regions limited economy have to be much cheaper than similar clubs in central Brisbane. This compensates the travellers to some degree.

Even Though, Current Refusal Of Financial Contribution From State Department of National Parks.

11.) Even Though, we have a current refusal of financial contribution from the Queensland State, Department of National Parks. The CRCA is aware that preceding the introduction of the National Firearm Implementation Act 1996/1997 and during the speeches in the State and Federal Parliaments and again when that confiscation legislation was repeated in 2003 for handguns, the speeches and press releases from parliamentary members individually, and collectively from the main parties, promised to increase spending and make further shooting facilities available for range complexes. Those legislative changes drastically affected the lives of law abiding shooters forcing them to join shooting clubs, forcing them to compete, to retain a reason to own their property, a firearm, and in the later legislation even prescribes how many attendances each year for each class of firearm. It is now time for the CRCA to remind the State Government of its pledges prior to this legislation and acquire financial assistance from the State to compensate shooting associations for coping with the increase in participation.

No Other Sport Has to Suffer These Impositions, And Receives The Least Government Assistance.

12.) No other sport has these impositions placed on them, no other sport has had so little support from government. The staff of Minister of Police Mr Jack Dempsey informs us that we have 600,000 licensed shooters in Queensland which is currently expanding at 16 % per year.

Some of our members attend local clubs at 9am (at weekends) and have to wait queuing until 3 or 4 pm before they can get on a firing point to fire their first shot for the day, as others are there before them.

The Corella Shooting Facility will attract shooters, competitors, firearm hobbyists and their families from all of Queensland ad Northen NSW to Gympie.

Yours
Ron Owen
President CRCA.

The History So Far.

In the mid 1990s the Local Council evicted the Service Rifle Club from the Victory Range Complex, to make way for a railway line that cut the range block in two sections. The Small Bore Club, which over a thirty year period had built a first rate facility on the Victory Range opposite the Victory Hotel was evicted by the Council, leaving them un assisted, or un compensated. A few years later, without assistance they managed to build again next to the Clay Target Club site. In about 2002, Council wrote to the Clay Target Club and Pistol Club informing them that they were limiting the site leases to short term and that they had to find alternative site before 2008. During this period the 'Council' had attempted to change the use on the Victory Range site for a Council land fill Tip. This failed so then Council tried to sell it to a developer for an industrial site, failed and then tried to sell it and the neighbouring stockyards to a housing developer, a Mr Monday, all attempts failed due to local public criticism and the long term lease that was held by the Smallbore & Silhouette Club.

In the later 2008 Shooting club leases Council introduced a provision which allowed the CEO to give 60 days notice to leave there facilities. In 2012 a group of Green/Public Servants within Council and the local DNR (Cooloola Trail Alliance) used their influence to have the CEO of Council use this provision to terminate the lease the Sporting Clays held for a site on the Victory Range.

Then this 'Green/Public Servants within Council and the local DNR' used Council/Ratepayer grant money to install cycle tracks around the clubs on the Victory Range complex and are pushing to remove the three remaining clubs from the site.

At a meeting with the Minister for the Environment and National Parks Steve Dixon, Mayor Ron Dyne accompanied with council Director of Planning Michael Hartley, stated that it was council intention to sell both Victory Range blocks for housing.

In 2014 Council endorsed the Ross Planning Gympie Region Track Trails feasibility study which gives the Victory Range Complex and the new Corella Forestry site to the Cooloola Track and Trail Alliance, but earlier this year 2014 the Minister for National Parks had given an agreement in principle for it to be used for a Shooting complex.

Council Found It had Promised Corella Land Site, To Both Sides.

1360 Shooting enthusiasts signed a Parliamentary E petition and a hard copy petition to Council, to support the new Corella Range Complex, over 300 submissions (some from shooting organisation that have thousands of member) went to Council protesting the Councils duplicity, in supporting the Ross Planning Track and Trail feasibility report. Then 'Council 'strangely' engaged the same Ross Planning to do a Feasibility Study on the new Range Complex at the same site in the Corella Forestry.

The Ross Planning Report.

On the 10th December 2014 this Ross Planning Feasibility report was presented to the Gympie Regional Council's. Acting Mayor Cr. Tony

Perrett Stated. (<http://www.gympietimes.com.au/news/aiming-for-a-new-facility/2483895/>)

“Council has today passed an important milestone in securing a clear direction for the future of our region’s shooters.’ The draft study contains several options and highlights associated costs to meet the long term needs of the region’s shooting clubs. ‘This study provides the foundation of an important blue print for the region’s shooting sports,’ Earlier this year the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing granted Council in-principle support for a consolidated shooting facility in Curra State Forest north of Gympie. The purpose of this study was to satisfy the conditions of the Minister’s support, as well as assisting Council to understand the current situation before any decisions are made. This included determining the feasibility of locating a facility of this nature within the State forest and identifying the most suitable location, having regard to current use, the interests of all stakeholders and any site constraints.

Cr Perrett acknowledged, ‘it is important Council now seek feedback from the wider community in order to fully understand the views on each of the possible options and we welcome the views of all interested parties.’”

Download the Range Feasibility Study Here

<https://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/documents/40005057/40005560/Curra%20State%20Forest%20Shooting%20Facility%20Draft%20Feasibility%20Study%20and%20Options%20Analysis%20%28Draft%29.pdf>

More Double Talk.

You will notice that the above History, was not included in the Ross Planning Feasibility Study and incorrectly operates on the basis that Council has no plans to give notice to the Shooting Clubs to Quit the Victory Site. This is contrary to all previous Council communication, and is also in contradiction to the already endorsed Track and Trail Feasibility Report from the same Ross Planning Co, they can hardly deny that they did not know of the previous report and its recommendations that’s the same one that gives the Corella site to the Cooloola Track and Trails Alliance, and acknowledges that the Shooting Clubs have to find another site. It also contradicts the years of regular head lines in the Gympie Times as one example as late as Friday August the 8th 2014 on page 7, PISTOL SHOOTERS FIRST TO GO: FRISKE. Quote, “Existing facilities are not long for this world”. Cr Larry Friske.

The report ignores the Shooter Union, one of the largest Shooting Clubs in our region with over 170 members. The Shooter Union which for many years has been proactive in trying to establish this Range Complex, obviously, with a view to using one of the range sites in Corella Range Complex. This report mentions the Cooloola Range Complex Association, but does not acknowledge that it represents 6 local shooting organisations) that has put 15 years of voluntary work into establishing this site with the government, yet steals and uses 90% of the CRCAs Submissions to Government, the templates and club information to fill up its own pages. \$40,000 was set aside in the budget to fund this Feasibility. Surely, our Councillors will question and refuse to pay for this report as instead of recommend a course of feasible action, it throws

five alternatives back to Council with crazy Tattslotto figures of costings designed to put the whole project back in the too hard box. Totally, ignoring the CRCAs suggesting that once the clubs have tenure they can start work raise money and apply for grants and get the job done in the same way they have built the local shooting clubs from nothing fifty years ago to world standard facilities that they have now.

A Billion Dollar Revenue for Council.

No, responsible shooters would ever want or suggest to move Gympie current shooting club facilities, they have taken lifetimes of voluntary work and the fortunes of their members, it is only the past precedents of Council evictions, and further threats that have forced them to join with the newer clubs such as the Shooter Union to find another venue. When the Mayor Ron Dyne told the Minister Steve Dixon that Council want to sell the Victory Range Site for housing. The Minister suggested that as the Council would be the beneficiary 4000 housing blocks, near the centre of town plus the rates on them for eternity, could Council find some money from this project to fund the new Range Complex. Mayor Ron Dyne stated that Council had no plans to give any assistance to the Shooting Clubs to remove to the other site. If the Council’s intention was true to this latest Ross Planning Report then Council could have no objections to issuing each shooting club a 99 year lease without the 60 day eviction clause from the CEO. As the shooting clubs have already asked for these long term leases, we know that the real intention in suggesting this to Ross Planning is just a duplicitous charade to remove the shooting clubs without giving any compensation or assistance. This is the crux of Councils conflicting information.

Problem Num	Para Number	Problem	Answers
1	1.1	Introduction and Purpose. ..development of a shooting range complex dependent on reaching acceptable outcomes regarding:.. Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry’s preference for the facility to be located centrally within the State Forest .. potential impacts on existing recreation uses.. securing tenure .. Native Title .. development approvals.	This Report does not supply the information required to answer these original questions. Council has been asked by the Minister to make decisions not addressed by this report. The Minister will not make a decision until Council makes the decisions he asked for, are we condemned to grow old waiting for further outsourced reports and would the Gympie Regional Council still pay Ross Planning for a partly completed report ?

2	1.2	<p>Existing situation</p> <p>Shooting groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .. Three clubs located on Council-owned land near to the Gympie town centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Gympie Clay Target Club -- Gympie Small Bore Rifle and Silhouette Club -- Gympie Pistol Club .. A club located at Sexton on privately-owned land (through private arrangement) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Gympie Sporting Clays Club .. A club without a home and conducting modified shoots at the Pistol Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Gympie Service Rifle Club 	<p>This report totally ignores the real Existing Situation, ignores the Past History of the Service Rifle Club and the other clubs as documented above, It also ignores the Shooters Union who have 170 members in our are area and no Range area to shoot on. The Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc. Informed Dion Collins that the Shooters Union were one of the six member associations and required a range for its members to shoot on, but this has been omitted from the report. The report also ignores the number of licenced shooters in our area, which was reported in the Courier Mail at 18000 in our area. Many of those would have to either hunt of compete in area's external to the Gympie Region. This report has also ignored the situation of shooters in South Eastern Queensland who would travel to the Gympie Region to shoot and compete if we had this range Complex. At present we have shooters travelling from other regions to shoot at the current clubs, but Gympie does not have a centre fire rifle range and has not had one since the mid 1990s so Gympie misses out on these visitors, and our shooters have to travel to other areas.</p>
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3	1.2	<p>Curra State Forest is an active timber harvesting site. It also has permanently marked apiary sites (although at the time of writing none had existing permits). Additionally, public recreation along the roads and trails within the Curra State Forest is an existing (and historical) use. Uses include walking, horse riding, mountain biking, motorbiking and 4WDing.</p>	<p>Curra State Forest was an active timber harvesting site, but the Southern Block(south of Wood Road) was extensively logged prior to it either being used as Shooting Complex or seceded to National Parks. It currently has no logable mature timber on it and would not be worth logging for another 20 years. That can be achieved in the same manner as occurs on the current Victory Range. The Northern blocks have plenty of logable stands of straight timber. Due to the lack of water ‘walking’, ‘horse riding’ and ‘mountain biking’ have been extremely limited, there has been some motor biking along the perimeter roads. Cooloola Trail Alliance was only born two years ago and per the previous Ross Planning Report on Track and Trails only has 20 members.</p>
4	1.3	<p>Clear demand exists for the development of a full bore (full template) rifle range.</p>	<p>At last, clear direction.</p>
5	1.3	<p>long-term future of the Belmont shooting facility 1.1 This study has found no evidence of any planned closure of the facility.</p>	<p>However, Belmont’s Safety Templates have suffered incursions by housing and noise complaints since the 1990s. As it is such a valuable state asset, the State has chosen to ignore the problem.</p>
6	1.4	<p>.. 1000m range - Service Rifle Club .. 200m range - Small Bore Rifle and Silhouette Club .. 300m range - Pistol Club .. range to accommodate five down-the-line layouts (and two overlaying skeet layouts) - Clay Target Club.. range to accommodate walk-throughs and three skeet layouts - Sporting Clays Club.</p>	<p>Plus a 500 m centre fire range and rimfire range for the Shooter Union, along side and using the same safety zone as the 1000 m Service Rifle range.</p>

7	1.5	<p>Feasibility considerations.</p> <p>While the southern end of the Curra State Forest has the physical dimensions required to accommodate the proposed users, there are constraints associated with the site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .. existing uses -- timber harvesting -- apiculture -- recreation track and trail use .. topographical considerations -- the area is far from level and finding suitable lengths to develop ranges without significant earthworks is somewhat difficult .. environmental considerations -- creeks and gullies that meanders across the site -- potential for important flora and faunal ecosystems .. access considerations -- there are no sealed roads leading directly to the proposed sites -- it is likely to be difficult to regulate inappropriate access to the ranges .. additional considerations -- there is no electricity connected to the site -- there is no water connection at the site. <p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p>A) Timber has been already harvested from the Southern Block all that is left is very small immature trees, or a few over mature trees as the block was supposed to have had a final cut, in 2005 and has recently 2013 had another final cut. Timber can be still harvested in the same way as it has been harvested twice in 20 years on the two Victory Range blocks.</p> <p>B) Apiculture can still be accommodated on perimeter locations. Throughout the site if apiary sites were needed in safety zones they can be accessed with notification whilst Ranges are closed.</p> <p>C) Track and Trail use can be enjoyed through out all other public land which is 50 % of the Gympie Regional Council area and around the perimeter tracks of the range complex.</p> <p>D) The sites for 1000 m Rifle Range does not need to be a billiard table, the Victory Range that was in use from 1912 to 1992 had many gullies running through it. A straight vision on targets with little work is available at the chosen sites. Gympie Service Rifle Club and Shooters Union have inspected and are prepared to start work. Proposed Pistol Club area has a large flat area.</p> <p>E) The same environmental considerations that have been employed as a logging area will not be altered, nor will important flora and fauna ecosystems. Due to 98% of land unused and undisturbed in the safety zones and shooters supervised and not allowed to cull native animals. When both blocks of the Victory Range were used for just shooting, all wildlife thrived, but the recent use by Cyclists over the majority of the site will have a negative impact .</p> <p>F)In appropriate access has never been an issue on Victory Range or any other site, Signage and tracks blocked will suffice.</p> <p>G) Solar Electricity and tank water will for- fill all current and future needs.</p>
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8	1.6	<p>While Council was of the understanding that all of the shooting groups were keen to relocate to a consolidated venue, this is not the clubs' preference if long-term tenure can be provided at the existing facilities.</p>	<p>Council could not seriously been under that understanding as it has a 60 day termination clause in all three leases, which only needs a letter from the CEO (without even a Council resolution) to give eviction notices to quit the sites. Council has previously put time restrictions on leases stating that the leases would not be renewed and the Pistol and Clay Target club would have to find other sites. Council has already closed the Service Rifle Range, Closed the Small Bore Club range which was opposite the Victory Hotel and used the 60 day termination clause in a lease they gave to the Sporting Clays Club in 2012 and have leased those areas to the Cooloola Trails Alliance. Where they never gave any financial assistance to any of the Shooting clubs on the Victory Range sites large amounts of ratepayer funds have been squandered on this site. Especially, as the Mayor Ron Dyne in a meeting with the Minister Steve Dixon stated with the agreement of the Director of Planning Mike Hartley that Council wanted to sell the two Victory Rifle Range blocks for residential housing. Obviously, given a choice none of the Shooting clubs would want to move, anyone suggesting that would be deemed idiotic. They have expended life times of work and fortunes developing their current facilities with only hindrance from government. They have begged for long term leases and been squeezed for years with first the threat of it being sold for a tip and them sold for an industrial estate. If Council has really miraculously changed its agenda, give those three current clubs a 99 year lease. Other clubs will come and take up the sites on the Corella block and Gympie will have an even greater facility, which will attract shooters from all areas of Australia to this region.</p>
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9.	1.6	Or at a private facility (either through land purchase or a leasing arrangement).	Gympie Service Rifle Club has expended years looking for a site that has the necessary 3 kilometres of length on private land for lease, and does not have a few million dollars to buy that much land close to Gympie.
10.	2.2	The proposal now involves developing a suite of ranges to meet the needs of its affiliates: .. Gympie Pistol Club .. Gympie Clay Target Club .. Gympie Sporting Clays .. Gympie Small Bore Rifle and Silhouette Club .. Gympie Service Rifle Club (that does not currently have a home).	The Shooter Union is one of Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc, Affiliates and even though forgotten in this Ross Planning feasibility study, it also wishes to develop a range to meet the needs of its members. As it does not have a home for its 170 plus members to shoot on.
11.	2.2	Council sees its facility development role as assisting the user groups to gain appropriate road access to the site (subject to a Council resolution to this effect).	In discussions with Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc. And Main Roads Department concerning the resumption of the south western edge of the Southern site for new Bruce Highway, the Main Roads staff stated that they would supply a Service rd for the Range Complex.

12.	2.2	<p>These participation trends are difficult to interpret in terms of the potential future membership of the Gympie-based clubs. While the clubs report steady membership bases at present (see Section 2.4), they may experience fluctuations in future years.</p>	<p>ROSS Planning Pty Ltd have omitted to consult with Minister of Police on increases of registered firearms and licensed shooters in the Gympie Region between 1997 and 2014 and the potential Range users that can be attracted from the licensed shooters in Queensland to Gympie. National Championships have been held in Gympie. Competitive shooters have already travelled from Victoria and Tasmania to compete here. Ross Planning feasibility report fails to show that Fishing is the recreation that most Australians partake in per year, Shooting is second. That is why we have fishing shops and gun shops but not soccer or cricket shops in every town in the nation. Participation is difficult to compute as many visitors, (Wives and Juniors) to rifle ranges, or primary producers employees do not have to be licenced. Many licenced shooters only use the range to sight- in their rifles, and are not members who shoot competition they shoot as legitimate visitors and do not join a club. From the CRCA inquiries with the Queensland Police and figures printed in the Courier Mail and Gympie Times we have seen a growth from 9000 licenced shooters in the region in 2002 to 18000 in 2014. Ross Planning have omitted to mention that in every case of a shooting club closing it is not due to a lack of membership, or a lack of participation, it is due to encroachments of safety zones by Governments allowing housing or other development.</p>
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13.	2.3	Interviews were conducted with key representatives from all of the existing shooting groups (and their representative peak bodies) and the local field archery club.	The Interview with the Shooters Union must have been omitted or never happened. More likely the writer of the report has followed closely the Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc, Submission (Study) which was first sent to the State Government and Council in 2003 and updated in 2012, but has not been updated yet to include the latest affiliate The Shooter Union.
14.		Gympie Small Bore Rifle and Silhouette. Ideally, the club does not wish to move and would prefer long-term tenure in its existing location.	Gympie Small Bore Rifle and Silhouette was situated originally on the same Victory Range block but opposite the Victory Hotel on corner of Sandy Crk Rd and Tin Can Bay Rd, it had a great modern facility until given notice to quit that site in about 1993, and were sold a 20 year lease with an option for another 20 years, the option was accepted by the Club but refused by the Council and instead sold a lease that binds the Club for 10 years but council can give notice to quit within 60 days with just a letter from the CEO. They have already suffered the experience of Council forcing them out with no compensation or assistance.
15.		Gympie Clay Target Club. The club has no desires to leave their current location (particularly not to a location with no power, water or sealed access roads).	Gympie Clay Target Club. Currently the Access road is not sealed. The Club has had notice to find other premises written into the last Council lease and its new lease has a clause that can give the power to the CEO to give a 60 day notice to quit the site. Even though Council say it won't do that, it has already used that clause to give notice to the Sporting Clays, and evicted the Service Rifle Club and the Smallbore club and given no compensation or assistance to either of those clubs.

16.		<p>Gympie Sporting Clays Club. The club is keen to stay at its current picturesque facility as long as possible.</p>	<p>Gympie Sporting Clays Club. The club use at Sexton on private property is solely dependent on the owner of the land. Which cannot be assessed as long term. Unfortunately, the record of Council in offering and up holding a lease has shown to be unreliable. A worse option. They would hardly move to a new location if Council only offered them a 60 day tenure. When the current owner of the lands needs change, the Club will have to find another site. Sporting Clays is one of the most popular shooting competitions it will thrive where ever an opportunity to set up the events exist.</p>
16.		<p>Shooters Union of Queensland. The group supports the proposed development within the Curra State Forest and notes that a quality multi-disciplinary shooting complex has the potential to attract regular use and derive significant economic benefit to the region.</p>	<p>Shooters Union of Queensland. This report omits the fact that it has 170 plus members in our region and the reason it joined the Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc was so that its members would then have a site to shoot on the Corella Range Complex.</p>

17.		<p>Cooloola Trail Care Alliance. The quantum of loss will depend on the ultimate footprint of the shooting facility. Additional considerations: .. impacts on access to other sections of the Forest and adjacent private land .. facility impacts on neighbouring residential amenity (and intensifying residential and rural-residential footprint) .. difficulty in managing inappropriate access to the shooting facility (and culture of some forest users of ignoring signage and restrictions on access) .. potential opportunity for the trail-using community to be compensated for the loss in quality tracks and trails.</p>	<p>Cooloola Trail Care Alliance. A) Cannot name an impact to access as there is not one, this is just a manufactured gripe. B) Again just words as they know that there is no impact on residential impact. C) The only ‘culture of some forest users of ignoring signage and restrictions on access’ are their own members who have been trespassing on the current Shooting club leases at the Victory Range. Building tracks through shooting club safety zones. D) To ask for compensation for the loss in quality tracks and trails is cheeky, hard nosed, and duplicitous as they have been given in advance the two Victory Range sites and given a large amount of Ratepayer money to build these tracks and trails. Now they want more???? Already they have 50% of the Gympie Region to ride their bikes on, as that 50% of our region is public land.</p>
18.		<p>Multi Terrain Bike Orienteers Queensland. However, MTBO has indicated that the density of trails required for this form of orienteering is not likely to exist outside the southern section of the Forest. In this instance, an alternate venue would need to be sought (potentially outside the Gympie region)</p>	<p>Multi Terrain Bike Orienteers Queensland. Their one use of this site in 2013 could hardly be described as an intense use. If they cannot find another area in the 50 % of the Gympie Regional Council area that is public land, they maybe they should take up course in Map reading. Though, if this site is so good it is surprising that it took them till 2013 to find this area. If these sort of area's are so difficult to find, why did they not use the Victory site as it has had so much Council/Ratepayer money spent on manufacturing it to suit this very purpose.</p>

			The Photograph of a number of cyclists on right side of page 10 was not taken at the Corella site. The photograph on the left has been taken on the Victory Range site, on Council Funded tracks with a Council Funded sign inn the background.
19.		<p>Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service).</p> <p>A) The Department acknowledges that the shooting community aims to develop a facility in the southern section of the State Forest where the recreation uses are currently most intense. From a safety point of- view, it is highly unlikely that the existing uses and shooting uses can co-exist in this area.</p> <p>B) A full environmental impact assessment would be expected from the proponent at the point that the project was put forward for formal approval.</p>	<p>A) The once use of this site in 2013 could hardly be described as an intense use.</p> <p>B) The Range Complex clearing 2 or 3 % of the land would not impact anywhere near as much as the 100 years of intense logging.</p>

20.	<p>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Forest Products)</p> <p>.. Some suggestion that shrapnel lodged in trees is a safety concern when sawing logs and processing timber 2</p> <p>.. Concern that the apiary sites within the southern section will be impacted by the proposed shooting facility</p> <p>.. Concern controlling both inappropriate and necessary access to the forest areas within the shooting facility</p> <p>.. Preference for the proposed shooting facility to be located within GYMG70003 or GYMG70004 (in the north-west corner of the State Forest) given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- amphitheatre-style terrain -- timber harvesting has been completed in these areas and the remaining forest is less productive -- steeper terrain in these areas resulting in fewer access points (limiting inappropriate access) -- no apiary sites within GYMG70003 and only three in GYMG70004 -- no known significant quarry resources -- less access tracks and roads of significance for fire and management activities in these sites -- neighbours to these sites are generally rural landowners. Therefore, there are less buildings and other assets at risk from wildfire events relative to GYMG70007. 	<p>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Forest Products)</p> <p>A.) This suggestion was refuted by Perry Corbett, Manager Gympie Timbers who suggested that brass and lead fragments are often softer than hardwood timbers. Further, Gympie Timbers harvested the former Victory Rifle Range on two occasions without incident.</p> <p>B.) Apiary sites can still be accessed when access is needed.</p> <p>C.) We have to wonder why the forestry is concerned with inappropriate and necessary access to the Shooting facility, is it just another manufacture of words to object with? GYMG70003 or GYMG70004 have extremely tight windy gullies with very steep sides, which has very good straight timber on them, but very poor access in any weather. Access tracks are the only reason they could say it is less productive That is why the timber has remained there, while the southern block has good access and has been logged almost to its death.</p> <p>D. The only neighbours that the southern block has are Queensland Rail, and when the new highway goes through, Main Roads, and on the Eastern South East boundary a few large rural Landowners which is the same as the other two mentioned blocks.</p>
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21		<p>Sunshine Coast Council Council continues to support the recommendations of its Difficult-to- Locate Sports Study¹. This Study outlined the need to further assess the feasibility of a multi-discipline facility in the Curra State Forest. Interestingly, the study further recommends a joint approach with Gympie Regional Council receiving support from Wide Bay Regional Council (sic) and Sunshine Coast Council. See Council's Social Policy Branch and Tredwell Management, 2009.</p>	
22.	3.1	<p>Site overview. Surrounding land uses Bordering the far southern end of the site is an area of private residences zoned rural residential.</p>	<p>This area known as Bannister Park 5 and ten acre blocks has been purchased by The Main Roads Department for the purpose of the new Bruce highway.</p>
23.	3.2	<p>The site in context. The Corella area in the south is considered productive dry sclerophyll and has re-harvest potential in approximately 15 to 20 years.</p>	<p>As with twice in the last 20 years Shooting clubs have closed ranges during week daylight hours to allow timber to be removed from safety zones. No problems have been recorded. All it needed was a letter to each club when the timber workers were coming into their area. Same with reduction burning and fire hazards. Ranges have to be closely supervised so control, for these purposes are not a problem.</p>

24.	4.2	<p>Gympie Regional Planning Scheme 2013 Implications for proposed shooting development Clearly, the development of covered firing lines and club facilities and the significant clearing required for range development are not consistent with the purpose and requirements of this zoning</p>	<p>Clearing of the 2 % of the 900 hectares is insignificant and as Apiary and Timber growing are uses consistent with the purpose and requirements of the zoning, National Parks staff are allowed to shoot in National Parks, so it must be a currently consistent purpose of the zoning on this land. As it states in (b) Low intensity development based on appreciation of the significant values of the area may be facilitated where a demonstrated community need exists and is consistent with a management plan for the area.</p>
25	5.1	<p>Sunshine Coast Difficult-to-Locate Sports Study 2009-2028 Specifically, the study recommends the following high priority action: The establishment of a national standard shooting precinct (including full bore) in the Curra State Forest to provide for the long term greater demands for the Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Wide Bay Greater Region. *uncertainty surrounding the long-term viability of the Belmont facility</p>	<p>The uncertainty over the long term viability of the Belmont facility is due to the location of housing within close proximity for noise and safety. But due to State Government needing the range for international events such as Olympic and Commonwealth games State Government has decided to over look the requirements.</p>

26.	6.1	<p>Legislative context. Implications for the Curra State Forest To date, there have been no detailed environmental assessments undertaken for the Curra State Forest. The implications for a shooting facility within the Forest will need to be determined by undertaking a detailed environmental assessment.</p>	<p>A) All activities do not significantly impact on matters of NES as listed under that act. The Curra State Forest does not fall within a protected area nor does it fall under a conservation plan. B) Why did this Ross Planning Study not include a detailed environmental and native title assessment as requested by the Gympie Regional Council brief?? Seems again that \$40,000. Was not enough and the report writers are already looking for more money.</p>
27.		Nature Conservation Act 1992	<p>A page entered in the document obviously for fill as it is not relevant. Hunting is not allowed on any club ranges this was explained to Dion Collins from Ross Planning.</p>

28.		<p>Vegetation Management Act 1999. Approval type: .. Notice of clearing of regrowth vegetation (VM Act) .. Development Approval for Operational Works (Clearing native vegetation) (under the SPA). Approval description: s7 of the SPA defines development to be: (a) carrying out building work (b) carrying out plumbing and drainage works (c) carrying out operational work (d) reconfiguring a lot (e) making a material change of use. s238 of the SPA requires that a Development Approval is necessary for assessable development. Schedule 3 of the SP Regulation identifies types of assessable development. ss19V and 19W of the VM Act prohibit the clearing of regulated regrowth vegetation unless it is done in accordance with the Vegetation Clearing Code.</p>	<p>VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACT 1999 - SCHEDULE -- DICTIONARY States regrowth vegetation means vegetation that is not remnant vegetation. Map on page 22 must be a mistake. All of the Southern block is regrowth, all of it has been logged many times over, if the Koala Bears habitat was of concern they would have not logged it for a 100 years. Surely, if the land uses Apiary and forest logging continue when 98% of the land use does not alter then none of this applies in this case. Lower Map on page 22 shows that only creeks are of a concern, so in our Range plans we can leave these in situ as we did on the Victory centrefire range. Cooloola Range Complex Association Inc has received information that the intended range site at Corella (southern block was originally a gold mining field)</p>
29.	7.1	Access and transport	<p>A new road is proposed between Tamaree Road, east of the North Coast Railway and Tallowood Court. An extension of this service road to the north could provide adequate access to the southern section of the shooting facility.</p>

30.	9.3	Indicative costs	<p>\$40,000 was the figure that Gympie Regional Council allocated in the budget for this Ross Planning report, with half that amount of money and in the same preparation time, I could have had improved access roads, ground levelled, Target, mounds, firing points, bench rest, clay throwers, safety zones wired off and signed, Shooting Competitions would be organised the following week. Club houses, toilets and turf would be planned and beong organised the week after. Ron Owen</p>
31.		<p>ACOUSTIC SERVICES NOISE IMPACT STUDY The noise modelling has a large level of uncertainty due to limitations in the calculation method, uncertainties in the source data and uncertainties regarding the bulk earthworks required during the construction of the shooting ranges. It is recommended that field testing is conducted after the bulk earthworks have been conducted. This testing would take into account all of the screening provided by the berms, vegetation and topography of the site as well as the directivity of the firearms.</p>	<p>In 2005 with the assistance of Murrey Associates, at that time they were the sound engineers used by Cooloola Shire Council on regular occasions. They were visiting Gympie on other Council business and offered to do some tests and give Council the results. I organised this test in conjunction with Peter leeson and Nathan Greene from National Parks, I lent Nathan Greene a .308 Win. (7.62Nato) rifle as he was authorised to shoot in the National Parks, he fired the rifle from the planned firing point on the Service Rifle template. Murrey Associates could get no reading on their instruments or hear any noise from where they set up near the then nearest habitation Banister Park, they also conducted tests from Tamaree Rd. I was informed by Murrey Associates that the results of these tests were given to the Council planning department.</p>

The State and Council took our shooting ranges, all we want is what they have already promised.

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Feedback received during this period will inform the considered in the preparation of a final report for Council's consideration early in 2015.

If you need any further information please phone 07 54825070 and ask for Ron.