



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.
The Queensland Indoor Air Rifle Association
The Shooters Union (Queensland Branch)
The Firearm Designers Theamic
Collectors Association Inc.
The Firearm Owners Association of Australia.

22nd April 2015

Justification Submission. Addendum to previous Submission On District Shooting Facility - Feasibility and Option Analysis.

1. Clubs and People Involved.

ROSS Planning Pty Ltd who in their Feasibility and Options Analysis recommended and supported the plan for the Corella Regional Shooting Complex apparently were not asked in their brief to supply information on demand and use from external regions in Queensland.

The (CRCA) Cooloola Range Complex Association represents the members of the above listed affiliated Associations whose membership varies slightly day to day, but to approximate from information received :-

Gympie Pistol Club,	250
Gympie Clay Target Club,	100
Gympie Sporting Clays,	150
Gympie Small Bore Rifle & Silhouette Club	250
Gympie Service Rifle Club	350
The Queensland Indoor Air Rifle Association	6800
Shooter Union (Queensland Branch)	9600
The Firearm Designers Theamic Collectors Association	490
The Firearm Owners Association of Australia	8400
Total	

Not all of the above members are situated in the local government area of the Gympie Regional Council, but most are in South Queensland area, and due to scarcities of shooting facilities have been accustomed to travel. Some clubs central to Gympie, have low numbers as since the State Government put the railway line through the current range Victory complex they have nowhere to shoot and have to make do using other clubs facilities when they are available, which is not often and expensive.

2. Local Numbers and Range Usage.

From the CRCA inquiries with the Queensland Police and figures printed in the Courier Mail and Gympie Times we have seen a growth from 9,000 licenced shooters in the region in 2002 to 18,000 in 2014. These figures are just licensed shooters, but most of the clubs have safety /training programs for testing prior to the applications for a shooters licence and under the Weapons Act of 1990 have open days, come and try days, and continuous training programs for schools and junior shooters.

Due to the on going increases in shooting licence numbers which has been reported, (depending on area) as between 16% and 31% per year, some of the local clubs such as the Davidson Range at Yandina has 2700 members and the SSAA Range at Imbil has 2600 members.

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 further attendances and impositions on shooters, they say "Wait" and promise that land and facilities will be provided by the governments, but it has not occurred as yet.

Some of our affiliated club 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 hundreds of others are there before them.

3. Competitive Shooters Travel.

At least two National Championships and one State Championship shooting events have been held in Gympie. Competitive shooters travelled from Victoria, NSW and Tasmania to compete in the Championships held in Gympie. Once Gympie again has the range complex as well as it being a hub for competitive shooting in South East Queensland we can expect to host National Championships again and attract shooters from all over Australia and New Zealand.

4. Licences In Queensland.

Inspector Mc Comb Authorised Officer of Weapons Licencing Branch reported in 1998 that there were 120,000 licenced shooters in Queensland. On Monday, 2 June 2014, Trevor Ruthenberg MP for Kallangur received from the Office of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency the information that there was now 600,000 plus licences in Queensland and transferred that information to one of his constituent Licensed Shooters who had a query on a delay. A quadruple increase in licensed shooters and as our clubs run the initial safety courses who report that in our area some weekends they have a combined 100 applicants for the courses so we can ascertained that there is a continuing increase in applications for shooters licences. Most licenced shooters pay to 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 clubs, but have a legitimate need to use the facilities as long as they are licensed paying visitors.

5. Shooting Interest In Australia.

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, do not have to be licenced to use firearms on the range, they have to have photographic identification and sign a Form 33 stating that they have no legal inhibitions to handle a firearm. Primary producers who are licenced can allow family and employees to use firearms on there properties, many of these find an interest and attend safety courses at Shooting ranges.

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 developments to impact on its noise and safety barriers.

6. The CRCA Plan.

If the CRCA is allowed to take advantage of the Minister Agreement-in-Principle so it can develop the Corella Forestry Southern block (Wood Rd) for the use of the Shooting Sports (including Archery) its affiliated clubs such as Gympie Service Rifle, Shooters Union, Queensland Indoor Air Rifle Association, and Gympie Pistol Club will develop their individual ranges eventually to international standards as they have done in their current and past facilities. Gympie Service Rifle Club will develop the 1000 m rifle range, the Shooters Union will develop a centre-fire Silhouette 500 m range, the Gympie Pistol Club will develop a 200 metre Silhouette 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 growth ie. Clay Targets, Cowboy Action, Sporting Clays, Colonial Black Powder clubs, etc.

7. In Support Of CRCA

In support of the above plans one hard copy petition has been signed by 463 local people and another 851 signed the parliamentary E Petition.

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

We have been told by Mr Barnard Smith the Gympie Regional Council CEO that Council had received over 300 submission supporting the use of the Corella Wood Rd site for the Shooting facility. 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.

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

8. The Gympie Shooting Population.

Per an article in the Courier Mail in 2010 it reported that the Gympie the area still had the highest per head of population in Queensland with over 15 000 licenced shooters in the region.(then in 2013, 18,000 licenced shooters)

Our local club memberships, due to our regions limited financial economy has to be much cheaper than similar clubs in central Brisbane that have similar facilities. This compensates and encourages members to travel some distance to use Gympie shooting facilities. 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 from North Brisbane, to join our shooting clubs and enjoy the current well established facilities at the Victory Complex.

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

The CRCA recalls 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 at that time both 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. No other sport has these impositions placed on them, no other sport has had so little support from government. The CRCA at this time would like to remind the State Government of its pledges prior to that legislation and of the subsequent increase in participation that has been caused by that legislation. The CRCA also has to plan for the continuing increase in licensed shooters numbers who will need and wish to use our planned combined shooting facility on the Wood Road Corella Southern site. The Corella Shooting Facility will attract shooters, competitors, firearm hobbyists and their families from all over Australia to South Eastern Queensland, Gympie.

Yours
Ron Owen
President CRCA.