

THE NEW SOUTH WALES RIFLE ASSOCIATION Inc

ESTABLISHED 1860



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MEMO: ALL CLUBS AFFILIATED WITH NSW RIFLE ASSOCIATION.
FROM: CHAIRMAN N.SW.R.A.
DATE: 3rd JULY 2008.
SUBJECT: STATUS & FUTURE ANZAC RIFLE RANGE MALABAR.

On Tuesday of this week (1st July 08) the New South Wales Rifle Association along with the other Licensed User's of the Anzac Rifle Range at Malabar were advised by the Commonwealth Dept of Finance and Administration (DOFA), the department which administers and "owns" the site referred to as the Malabar Headland on behalf of the Commonwealth, which encompasses the Anzac Rifle Range, of a meeting to be held at Jamieson House concerning the current status of the Rifle Range.

At this meeting the Licensed User's were advised by DOFA that the Federal Labor Government had reached a decision to "hand over" the Malabar Headland site to the NSW State Government.

This process would take some time, with the first twelve months consuming "due diligence", such as environmental, heritage, occupational health and safety issues etc., This would be followed by a period of at least another year or so during which time a Management Plan would be structured and put in place.

The minimum time period to take place before the "signing off" on the hand over would be at least two years and could possibly stretch out to four.

DOFA advised that this decision was final and had been instigated by the Federal Member for Kingsford Smith, Peter Garrett, and Minister for Environment.

DOFA also made the statement that the NSW State Government wished the site to be handed over "unencumbered". The NSW Government had advised that they insisted that the shooting disciplines presently in occupancy of the Rifle Range to be relocated as they will not be granted use of the site once it becomes NSW State Government property.

At this stage the Federal Government has not made any decision in regard to relocation for any of the groups (the licensed users). Sites under tentative consideration are Cessnock, Cecil Park and Hilltop in the Southern Highlands. This will be a matter for negotiation and discussion between the Federal Government and the licensed users over a period of time. NSWRA did however state their complete rejection at the meeting of any proposal for us to relocate to Cessnock and this was noted.

OUR OPTIONS:

Obviously this is not good news, however it is by no means the end of the road for us and the worst scenario for us would be a new Rifle Range to relocate to within the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Basin. This is not a bad option for the worst scenario!



The New South Wales Rifle Association Inc.



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We will now negotiate with both the Federal and State Governments regarding our future tenure either here at Malabar or a proposed relocation to a suitable site. Other options we will explore including lobbying politicians, at which time we will require your co-operation and assistance. More on that at a later date. Rest assured **NO** option will be left unturned, including that of legal consideration through the courts.

Prior to this announcement and advice from DOFA on Tuesday we were pro-active in obtaining assurances from the decision makers regarding our future and just such a decision being made. I quote from a letter from the NSW Premier, Morris Iemma dated 23rd May last.

“You can be assured that the NSW Government remains committed to assisting the Commonwealth with identifying sites for the shooters currently utilizing Anzac Rifle Range. My government has no intention of supporting moves to remove shooting activities from the headland until alternative sites have been identified.”

Let's make sure Premier Iemma keeps his word!

NSWRA Council will be meeting this coming Sunday July 6, at which time our strategy and plan forward will be discussed at length. I will keep you all informed of developments.

Sincerely,

John Fitzgerald,
Chairman.



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