

OVERSEAS SHOOTERS SUPPORT FOR ANZAC RANGE

Overseas members of shooting organisations have joined the ranks of locals in protesting at the proposed loss of shooting at Malabar Range

The following comments have been received in protests from:

- 1) United Kingdom
 - 2) South Africa
 - 3) Canada
 - 4) Japan
 - 5) New Zealand
 - 6) United States
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- 1) I have shot on Malabar as a member of the Canadian rifle team. It is a magnificent range with an exemplary history. Please, don't destroy this icon of Australian history.
 - 2) I believe the range to be part of the Australian heritage and have hosted International shooting events. It should not be scrapped; to do so would be an error of judgement.
 - 3) Do everything possible to KEEP THE ANZAC RIFLE RANGE open and operating! It's a valuable national security resource as well as a singularly historical national treasure.
 - 4) I was a competitor of the Scotland Team at the 1988 Bicentennial Championships in Sydney and would like the range to remain available for shooting.
 - 5) I visited Malabar range for the 1988 meeting, my first and only return to Australia since service with the British Pacific Fleet in 1945. The range forms part of a vital link with Commonwealth sport.
 - 6) Having participated in competitions on the ranges in 1988 on my first overseas tour I appreciate the ease of access to the citizens of the great city of Sydney. In an era of increased environmental awareness it is increasingly important that sport facilities are easily accessible to the populous. I have since attended shooting competitions in Africa, Asia, North America, South America and the Caribbean as well as across the British Isles and in Europe.
 - 7) The facilities in Sydney might be equalled in a couple of places, but can't be beaten on the balance of variety and accessibility.
 - 8) If Australia wishes to continue to compete in the Blue Riband of shooting events, The Queen's Prize, then facilities must continue to be available for practice and perfection at the longer ranges.

- 9) In late 2005 an Australian thought he had achieved a world's first in scoring twenty consecutive bullseyes at 1200 yards (1100 metres). The sport at such extreme range is not possible in Sydney, but the principles can be learnt there. I was the setter of the record of twenty bullseyes at 1200 yards in June 2005 at Bisley in England.
- 10) The access to facilities to conurbations is important. Closing them is sporting suicide. Does Australia wish to see its sporting dominance in Commonwealth shooting events decline?
- 11) The ANZAC ranges are a great facility. Do not allow them to be lost to the sportsmen and taxpayers of Sydney and New South Wales
- 12) The closure of this range would be a disaster for the international full bore rifle community. I have had the pleasure of shooting on this many times since 1984 when I first visited Australia. In 1988 this range hosted the superb World Fullbore Rifle Championships and the Australia Match and to lose such a facility without the immediate provision of a new range (or land on which to build a range) is a disaster for our sport not just in New South Wales but also in Australia and worldwide.
- 13) Visited once. Hope to get there again after Palma World Championships in Brisbane - October 2011.
- 14) Please do not close this range. It would be a great loss to Australian shooting.
- 15) The Bicentennial Meeting held at this range was superb. The challenges of the range stretched everyone's ability. Closure of this range would be a loss to Australia.
- 16) I have shot on Anzac range several times in International competition and it is a facility which should be retained as it provides challenging conditions with good facilities for both local and visiting shooters. NSW has bred many first class international shots and it would be a tragedy to lose this excellent range complex.
- 17) This range has significant historical importance and has provided both the region and those who take part in the sport target shooting with safe and satisfactory venue to conduct one of the worlds oldest and safest sport. Would you close a regional sports stadium on the same grounds???
- 18) I competed on this range in August 2009 as a member of the U.S. Veterans Rifle Team. It has created many wonderful memories of Australia and its hospitality. Having the range closed would be an event that would diminish the shine that Australia creates for me and the other team members.

- 19) As an international shooter and Captain of the US Rifle Team, I ask that you consider the request at hand. The Anzac Range has a unique history that should be preserved for future generations to compete in international rifle competitions.
- 20) We try our utmost best to keep a sport we love alive. I fly to Brisbane this year and I shoot on various ranges across the world. Live and let live - you that the shooting community in Australia can build out our sport. I am an international shooter and also a national Captain of a discipline that use this range.
- 21) It would certainly be a tragedy if yet another rifle range is closed. The sport of full bore shooting is increasingly being put under pressure and to see such an important range in the vicinity of Sydney closed would be devastating to all shooters in New South Wales and a bad sign for the rest of the country.
- 22) Hey leave us alone we love target shooting and even more completion. We have enough trouble in this country with gun ownership. Please save this range.
- 23) We lost our 1000yd range on spurious grounds and it has had a devastating effect on the sport locally. Once lost, it's near impossible to replace these so don't do it!!!
- 24) I first shot on the ANZAC range in 1988 as a member of the Great Britain Rifle Team in the World Long Range Championships and have many fond memories of the range and its fantastic location.

To imagine a city like Sydney without a range of the size and distance of the ANZAC range is unthinkable and I strongly support the NSWRA in their endeavours to save the range from closure.

- 25) The beautiful Anzac Range is the symbol of public peace and advanced social system in Sydney, Australia. I enjoyed there international shooting and riding horse with family, wife, and 7 years old twin boys and 5 years old son. If there would not be the Anzac range, it means Sydney's security must have become worse than China and Japan.
- 26) Australia has a proud record of winning medals at International competitions in the shooting sports. Commonwealth Games and World Championships to name two. Without the facilities to train people you will not be able to take part on the world stage.
- 27) I am sure Australia would not like to be relegated to the backwater of sport.
- 28) I am appalled that the closure of this range should even be considered. Please leave it as it is!

29) It is a travesty and a grave insult that the Australian Government wants to extinguish our ANZAC heritage. One of the very places that Australians have used for 150 years to train to defend our Nations and enjoy the sport of shooting is to be denied future generations of sports people.

Shame! Shame! Shame!

30) The Anzac Rifle Range was the first overseas rifle range that I shot on back in the 1970's. I have returned many times over the years and would like to visit again in the future.

31) Please keep this range open for a wonderful family sport.

32) Having been to Australia and shot on Anzac a couple of times now, I feel that it would be a huge loss to both NSW and Aus. It is one of the best ranges in the world and would be sadly missed by sportsman the world over.

33) Most New Zealanders feel strongly in regards to the meaning of ANZAC and its long standing traditions.

34) It has been my desire to compete on the ANZAC Rifle range as I have on many of your other complexes.
Surely this great piece of history must be retained for the shooters of the WORLD to compete with our fellow riflemen