

FIREARMS REGISTRY

Outdoor Shooting Range - Range Danger Templates and Permissive Shooting Rights

This FACT sheet provides information on the application process for an outdoor shooting range. The Range User Manual, available on the Firearms Registry Internet site provides further information on the range planning, construction and approval process.

What is a shooting range?

A shooting range is defined as an area, provided with a firing line, targets and a stop butt, for the controlled practice of shooting and is inclusive of the range danger area template. An approved shooting range is a shooting range approved by the Commissioner of Police pursuant to Part 8 of the *Firearms Regulation 2006*.

A shooting range is a specialised facility designed for firearms practice and competition events. Shooting ranges may be indoor or outdoor and are restricted to certain types of events and firearms. In NSW, a shooting range is approved by the Commissioner of Police, subject to certain conditions, with public safety being paramount.

Outdoor shooting ranges are often used for longer distance shooting competitions and the location of the land, the demographics of the land and ownership of adjoining land should all be taken into consideration when selecting a site.

Outdoor shooting ranges are backed by a stop butt or backstop, which may be a high retaining wall, an earth mound, sandbags, or specially designed traps to collect fired projectiles and prevent the ricochet of bullets, or bullets travelling outside the bounds of the range.

What are the boundaries of a range?

A shooting range includes the range complex, the firing line, the target area and the range danger area. A range danger area includes those areas of land or water, together with a specified air space, within which danger to life, limb or property may occur arising from the firing of specified ammunition.

The dimensions of the range danger area template are dependent on the type of ammunition to be used, the propellant and charge being used, the degree of accuracy of the firearm, the degree of accepted human error and the ground conditions of firing (wind, rain etc).

What are 'Permissive Shooting Rights'?

'Permissive Shooting Rights' is written permission, provided by the legal owner of the land or other person legally authorised to give this permission, for range personnel to have access to and conduct activities relating to the use of the shooting range.

Permissive shooting rights are given by landholders within the range danger area and give consent from those landholders for certain activities to occur, including:

- * Projectiles encroaching onto the property,
- * Authorised range personnel being physically present on the property to conduct clearances, safety checks and to erect signage or flags, where applicable.
- * Restrictions on the times and days shooting may occur (for example, restrictions on shooting on a weekend).

What are the steps in planning a shooting range?

Initially, the club or organisation making application for a range must consider its geographical location, terrain, demographics, the use and ownership of the land and the use and ownership of the surrounding land.

Consultation with the Range Inspectors at the Firearms Registry should occur at this early stage of the planning. The range inspectors will provide advice on the range and range danger area templates to be applied, to find the best possible site for the range based on access, availability of services, direction of fire, multiple use etc.

Consideration should be given to the demographics and ownership of the land proposed for the range and ownership of adjoining land. If the land to be used for the range is to be leased, approval must be sought from the owner of the land and that approval must be provided to the Firearms Registry with the application.

Land within the Range Danger Area Template will require 'Permissive Shooting Rights' from the landholders deemed to be within the range danger area. There may be restrictions on use of the land where bordering land is public land or land subject to native title.

The proposed range will also need approval from the local council.

The Manager Firearms Registry will not consider the approval of a range unless all other authorities, such as council, have received and approved a development application or issued a notice of non-objection.



Firearms Registry

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How do I complete an application for a shooting range?

After the planning, granting of permissive shooting rights, council approvals and completion of construction, a final inspection and approval by the Range Inspectors at the Firearms Registry will occur.

Prior to the final inspection the following documentation must be supplied to the Firearms Registry:

- ✓ A completed P512 Application for the Approval of a Shooting Range or Gallery form. These are obtained from the Firearms Registry Ranges Unit on request and you will be given this application form during the planning and construction phase.
- ✓ Copies of all final plans, drawings and photographs.
- ✓ Copies of development approval from council or the authority in control of the land on which the range is located.
- ✓ Copies of all permissive shooting rights letters or forms from the legal owners of land which is not under the direct control of the range and which is shadowed by the range danger area template.
- ✓ A letter addressed to the General Manager Firearms Registry requesting final inspection of the range.
- ✓ Payment of \$100 by completing the credit card details on the reverse of the P512 form, or by providing a cheque or money order made out to the NSW Police Force with your application.

After the final inspection and receipt of all the required documents, if approved you will receive your Shooting Range Approval with the authorised events and firearms and the conditions to which the range is subject.

[Related Information](#)

For further information please see the Range Manual on the Ranges page on the Firearms Registry Internet site.

Where can I find more information?

The information provided in the FACT Sheet is for general guidance only. Applicants and licensees should familiarise themselves with the *Firearms Act 1996* and the *Firearms Regulation 2006*, which are available on the NSW Legislation website - www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.



NSW Police Force
www.police.nsw.gov.au

