



30 November 2023

Upper Hutt City Council: Plan Change 49 – Open Spaces

Notes for oral submissions – Hutt Valley Clay Target Club Inc

1. **Purpose of submission:** The purpose of submission is to:
 - a. **support** the proposed **change in zoning** for the Club grounds from Rural Production to Sport and Active Recreation - more appropriately reflecting the long-term use
 - b. **support** the inclusion of a **site-specific standard** to manage the **number of shooting days** permissible - as has been the case for many years
 - c. **support** the proposal **as notified**, allowing **100** permissible **shooting days**, not the reduced number of 86 days proposed in the Hearing Report, **but** we would offer a **new condition** that none of the additional 20 shoot days can be used on weekends or public holidays

2. **Background to HVCTC:** The HVCTC has a **long, proud tradition** – we are a well-run and successful club that provides an important **public facility** in the greater Wellington region. Briefly the Club:
 - a. was incorporated **120 years** ago – in 1903 and has been at its **present site** in Whiteman’s Valley for over **60 years** – since the early 1960s
 - b. is **solely** a **clay target** club (all of the 5 main disciplines – utilizing all the grounds) – with no other forms of shooting allowed
 - c. is now the **only** public Clay Target **club** in the **greater Wellington region** (with the next clubs being in Palmerston North and the Wairarapa) - the Porirua club joined us a few years ago, having lost their grounds to the Transmission Gully motorway
 - d. has **238** financial and life **members**, is affiliated with the NZ Clay Target Assoc, and has had (and has) a number of shooters with a **world-ranking**
 - e. provides a venue for:
 - i. **Club** events, usually two or three times a month
 - ii. **National** events, usually once or twice a year
 - iii. **International** events, usually every three or four years
 - iv. the **wider public**, with many social and corporate events each year (ie in 2022 **41 groups** with **461 people** and two **pre-duck shooters events** with approx. 120 entries)
 - f. **membership** is **open** to the **public** (subject to compliance with our safety standards) and shoots on **published** shoot days

- g. has recently had all its shooting ranges, facilities, and standing orders **certified** by the **NZ Police** as part of the new and **rigorous Firearms Licencing regime**
 - h. have over **\$1.5 m** invested in **facilities** (buildings, traps to throw clay bird, tractors and quad bike) and grounds (including tree planting)
 - i. has an **impeccable** and **proven record** in terms of **compliance** with all central and local Government requirements – and can be relied on to act responsibly
 - j. tries hard to foster a **good relationship** with our new **neighbours**
3. **Housing development north of our Club:** Recent housing developments have all occurred in full knowledge of the Club's existence.
- a. Prevailing wind and shooting orientation generally take the noise away from the houses (no early starts and competitions generally finished by 5 pm, usually earlier)
 - b. Reverse sensitivity requirements in the proposed Plan (PC50) are appropriate and are on existing titles of some immediately adjacent landowners
4. **New zoning important - provides certainty:** The club welcomes the new zoning and notes the absence of any opposition. It provides the Club with certainty in a world where many clubs around New Zealand are under threat.
5. **Current use – unreasonably constrained by the limit of 80 shooting days:** We use all of our 80 days each year, being the max under our 2003 Certificate of Compliance – which constrains any opportunity for growth
- a. The current 80-day limit (less than 1.5 days per week) was not established in 2003 through any deliberative process – rather it just reflected the then-current use
 - b. The 100 shooting days proposed in the notified Plan, gave proper recognition to the Club role, as recognised and reflected in the change of zoning change (still less than a third of the year)
 - c. The two objections are not based on any actual complaint about the level of noise
 - d. No consultation or apparent logic to the 86 days proposed in the Hearing Report – other than the suggestion that all additional days may all be used on weekends
6. **Proposal:** Given all of the above, we ask that the 100-day total limit be retained but with a condition that the additional 20 days cannot be used on weekends or public holidays

SARZ-S7 could be amended to read:

Shooting days at the Hutt Valley Club(Pt Lot 1 DP 9009) will be limited to a maximum of 100 days per calendar year (with no more than 80 of those days on weekends or public holidays) and will only occur during daylight hours.