



HILL TOP RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP INC.

Media Release

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New M5 Billboard takes aim at shooting range

Residents of the Southern Highlands have taken out prominent signage along the M5 questioning the NSW Government's haste to establish a mega-shooting range on the edge of the national park.

The Hill Top Residents Action Group Inc (HTRAG) has long suspected that the Government's desire to build and fund this complex is firmly tied to securing the support of the Shooters Party in the NSW Parliament. Recent events have reinforced this suspicion as the Shooters Party seeks the right to legally hunt in NSW National Parks in return for the passage of the sale of NSW Lotteries by the Government.

"It's a misuse of scarce government funds. The government has bypassed its own environmental planning laws and ridden roughshod over the local koala population, in its rush to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on the country's largest shooting complex Jodie Laing, spokesperson for HTRAG said.

"It's time the rest of the State knew what was going on, and since the NSW Government won't tell them, we've decided to do it ourselves. As drivers approach the Southern Highland and our spectacular national parks, the sign will remind them that this is about to be shooter territory, no matter what that takes."

The billboard, which reads: "\$6m Hill Top Shooting Complex **OR** 100 Nurses, Teachers or Police?" is designed to direct people to the new HTRAG website: www.stophilltop.com. The site is located on the M5 at Liverpool West. The billboard is viewed heading outbound from the city, after passing through Liverpool towards Campbelltown and the far south west.

Serious issues exist with a large number of aspects of this planned project including threats from bushfire, contamination threats to Sydney's drinking water, threats to native habitat and vulnerable species such as the Koala, threats to proper democratic process and most importantly threats to community safety - including the pedestrian safety of children walking to the local school and the impact on them of the massive shooting noise.

"We are deeply concerned that there is nothing we can do to stop it and the Government are moving rapidly to bulldoze the site within weeks without having fulfilled consent conditions," Ms Laing said.

"This is despite the proper environmental checks and surveys not being adequately conducted."

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