



Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (Brisbane)

Ross Vasta MP
RG_85
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: ross.vasta.mp@aph.gov.au

12th July 2018

Dear Ross,

We are approaching you to request an audit from the Australian National Audit Office of the ACMA Spectrum Management & Analysis Section project that installed radio monitoring infrastructure on Mount Petrie. The Auditor-General receives requests for audit from Members and Senators of the Parliament of Australia.

The ACMA facility located at Mount Petrie provides capability to resolve harmful interference around Brisbane protecting spectrum users in aviation, broadcasting, transport, emergency services and defence. We recognise the importance of the facility, but request an audit to highlight the failures of project management, and the impact to the public funds and to our Club.

We raised concerns during the project execution and the official response cleared by the Minister Fifield was respectful, but failed to address the concerns that we raised through your office. We argue that a project audit will identify learnings that will benefit ACMA for future project work, and highlight the impact imposed to our Club.

Summary of project management failure:

Failure to manage scope – although suitable power was already on site, the project failed to reach agreement with SEQwater (a Queensland Government statutory authority) to share energy infrastructure.

Impacts and failure to manage costs - the impact of duplicating energy infrastructure added significant cost to the public.

Impacts and failure to manage time – the duplication of energy infrastructure created a larger duration on the schedule than the installation of the actual facility. The initial site works were scheduled for 5 weeks starting early November 2017, however the actual start was continually delayed into 2018 and the actual duration was 10 weeks.

Impacts and failure to manage stakeholders – in addition to the failure to secure cooperation from SEQwater, the project was unable to provide reliable closure dates to our club that impacted our members' access, our clients (Queensland Police Service and various Security Training organisations that require access to a shooting range), and to our Club finances.

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Summary of impacts:

Cost blowouts to public funds – this figure is not available to us, but will be of interest to an audit.

Cost impacts to our Club – estimated to exceed \$168,000.

About our Club

SSAA Brisbane (our Club) is a sport and recreation club established to enable members, guests and visitors to participate in their chosen sports shooting discipline. Members engage in a number of disciplines using rifles, pistols and shotguns.

The Club's aims, purposes and objectives, along with its rules of governance are laid down in the Branch 'Articles of Association' and 'Memorandum of Association'.

The SSAA Brisbane values the safety and well-being of its members, guests, visitors, neighbours, and the community in general, wildlife and the environment. The Club's Range Standing Orders protect the interests of these and other stakeholders. The Club is an Approved Shooting Club under the Qld Weapons Act 1990 and operates a Shooting Range.

Although volunteer driven, we depend on paid staff to maintain our operations at 7 days per week. The salaries of permanent staff and the loss of client revenue caused the majority of the financial impact from the forced closure during the project.

Next steps

We are asking you to request an audit from the Auditor-General to identify the learnings and impacts from the project. We are available to the audit team for interview, and we will make all of our associated records available and assist the audit team however we can.

We thank you again for your ongoing assistance as our Club Patron.

Regards
SSAA Brisbane

Stephen Walsh
Company Secretary
12th July 2018
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