

THE GERALDTON GREENOUGH RIFLE CLUB (Inc)

ABN: 40 103 561 177

PO Box 1497,
Geraldton. 6530

Mr Paul Radalj
Treasury – City of Greater Geraldton
Cathedral Ave, Geraldton. 6530

2 Jul 2013

Dear Paul

RE: GREENOUGH RIFLE RANGE – CONTINUATION OF FORGIVENESS FROM PAYMENT OF RATES

The Geraldton Greenough Rifle Club Inc (GGRC) is requesting The City of Greater Geraldton continue to forgive the payment of rates on two parcels of land located at Lots 77 and 1106 McCartney Road, Greenough.

The land is used as a rifle range and is referred to as the “Greenough Rifle Range”.

As discussed with you at a meeting attended by Dennis Marsden and myself on Monday 17th June 2013, we outlined the history of events that transpired in the past why Council has not charged rates.

The events in chronological date order were:

1976 –

The old rifle range on Rifle Range Road acquired by the State Housing Commission when the Department of Defence transferred the land. The old Geraldton Rifle Club was left without a rifle range to use.

1988 -

A new site for the rifle range located at Greenough after a complaint was lodged with the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The basis of the complaint was the unfairness in the land acquisition procedure and no consideration given to where the GGRC could relocate to. The Ombudsman decided the Department of Defence had acted unfairly and was obliged to find a new shooting facility for the GGRC

The Greenough Rifle Range was initially purchased leasehold by the Commonwealth for twenty five years from the “Clinch” family.

1992 –

The Clinch family exporting business became insolvent and the administrator approached the GGRC if would like to purchase the rifle range (the Commonwealth previously declining to purchase the land)

As GGRC could not obtain the finance to support such a purchase, the West Australian Rifle Association purchased the land for GGRC on a Trust basis.

1992_

GGRC transferred two sub parcels of land located on the Greenough Rifle range containing 'historic buildings of importance', to the Shire of Greenough for the National Trust. In exchange for the transfer, the Shire of Greenough agreed not to levy rates on the land used as a rifle range.

1992 to 2006-

Shire of Greenough continued not to levy rates on the Greenough Rifle range in recognition of the gifting of two historic land sites by the rifle club.

2007-

The new municipality of City of Geraldton Greenough continued not to levy rates by means of donating back the rates charges.

2009-

Meeting held with Councillors, CEO and some staff (see minutes attached) whereby they agree not to levy rates as per budget meeting

2013-

GGRC now wishing to formalise the arrangement whereby Council will continue not to levy rates on the Greenough Rifle Range.

Other reasons why Council has possibly not levied rates on the Rifle range was in recognition of "Good Corporate Citizenship" whereby:

The range is used for training Council rangers in the safe use of "long" firearms.

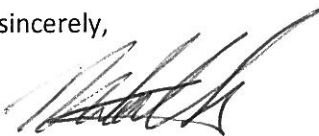
The range is made available to the Army to assist in National Defence training

The range is made available to State Government departments such as Department of Agriculture, Police for training in the safe use of long firearms.

The Greenough Archery club has land on the rifle range set aside for its exclusive use. This assists the Council in not having to locate land for the Archery Club.

If you need any more information on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Neil WALKER

(Secretary/Treasurer)