

Gun shop approved

A NEW gun dealer will set up at Bexley after a development application was approved by Rockdale Council, prompting a mixed response from the community.

Safari Firearms owner Gary Georgiou said the family business had operated at Belmore for 22 years and had never breached firearms legislation or been targeted by criminals.

The business would be expanded at its new premises, on the corner of Preddys and Stoney Creek roads.

Mr Georgiou said the shop would be permanently guarded by high security.

The application attracted four objections letters and two petitions.

Mr Georgiou said while there was no provision prohibiting unattended minors browsing guns, it was a "strict business choice to say no".

"Minors are not permitted to enter the shop premises without a parent or guardian and minors with permits are not allowed to browse firearms without a licensed adult," Mr Georgiou said.

Safari Firearms is the second-largest



Opening: A firearms shop will operate on this Bexley site.

arms dealer in NSW and includes the NSW Police and Australian Defence Force among clients.

Mr Georgiou said there was a growing demand for firearms in St George, with

the Sydney Clay Target Club at Menai and the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) range at Mortdale.

Labor councillor Shane O'Brien said gun laws were not strong enough and it

was incorrect to suggest only unlicensed gun holders committed crime, as massacres at Hoddle Street, Melbourne, in 1987 and Strathfield in 1991 involved licensed shooters.

Greens councillor Lesa de Leau voted against approval on "public interest grounds".

Independent councillor Yvonne Bellamy also voted against the application on account of it being a residential area.

"Would you want one next door to you?" she said.

NSW Shooters Party MLC Robert Brown, who attended the meeting, said he was "horrified at the cultural bigotry" of some councillors.

"Residents' concerns are understandable, in the same way they wouldn't want a pub or a chemist there because [of the] impacts on the community," he said.

He said shooters were subject to constant police checks and were not criminals.

Article from The Leader - by MARIANNA PAPADAKIS



Family values: Sandra and Nick Sinesiou are passionate about the history of the bridge. Picture: Jane Dyson

History in a burger shop

A HAMBURGER shop which has stood in the shadow of Tom Uglys Bridge for 53 years helps keep the history of the river crossing alive. Historic photos dating back to construction of the original bridge, opened in 1929, cover the walls of Paul's Famous Hamburgers at Sylvania.

Operated by Nick and Sandra Sinesiou and their four sons, John, Michael, Chris and Dimitri, it is a family business if ever there was one.

Chris Sinesiou said it was named Paul's when it was started in 1957 by the Zerefos family.

"Back then, it consisted of a fruit shop and convenience store and they sold hamburgers from a hole in the wall [window opening]," he said.

"Their hamburgers became so popular in 1983 they reno-

vated and got rid of the fruit market and convenience store and just made hamburgers.

"We took over in 1998 and are just as passionate about the history of the shop and its connection to the bridge.

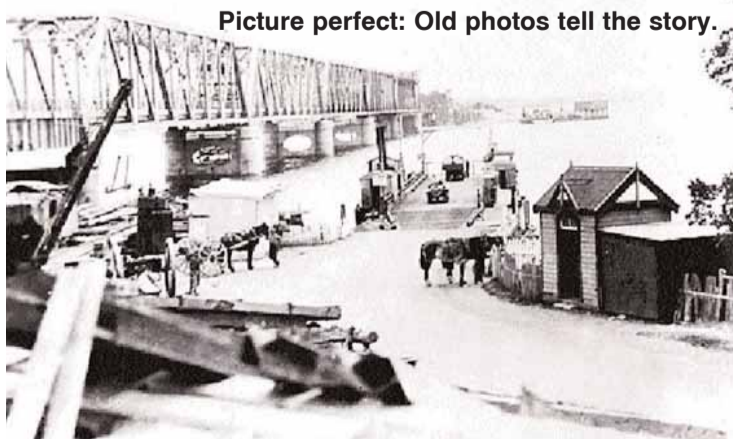
"It definitely means a lot to customers because they are always talking about the old days.

"I would be rich if I had a dollar for every person who says they used to come here with their father or grandfather."

Voted in one contest as the makers of Australia's best burgers, the shop continues to use the original recipe.

Article from The Leader by MURRAY TREMBATH

Picture perfect: Old photos tell the story.



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