

GOSFORD

Dreams ravaged by blaze

GAMES BUSINESS DESTROYED

Alicia McCumstie

THE owner of a laser games business is "devastated" after its Gosford premises were destroyed by fire on Friday night.

Emergency services were called to Zone 3 Laser Games in Mann St just before 10pm after a fire broke out, with the blaze ripping through the building.

The fire was intense, with flames spotted blocks away. Fire crews managed to eventually extinguish the blaze, but three police officers were taken to hospital with smoke inhalation.

The remaining structure is so unsafe that blockades were set up around Mann St to protect pedestrians and passing motorists.

Owner Steven Jankovic was still coming to terms with the loss of his business when he spoke to the *Express Advocate* on Monday.

"I'm devastated ... that

MONEY BACK

Mr Jankovic said he would refund any deposits paid for parties. All requests should be addressed to Zone 3 Gosford, 326 Manns St, Gosford NSW 2250 and will be redirected to a PO BOX. Include your name, address and a copy of your deposit receipt, your BSB and bank account details.

business was my life, everything I owned was in there," he said.

The fire couldn't have come at a worse time for Mr Jankovic.

"I recently put in new equipment and I had put a lot of effort into building the business up but that's all gone now," he said.

"I had 30-odd birthday parties booked in for this month too and I just feel so bad for all the children because they won't be able to have their birthdays there anymore."



The fire at its height as it rips through Zone 3 Laser Games. Three police officers suffered smoke inhalation and were taken to hospital. The area remains closed off because of the danger of the structure collapsing.

Pictures: Above: SUPPLIED. Below: MARK SCOTT



CALGA

Aboriginal land council voices opposition over sand mine

THE Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council has lodged a formal objection to a proposed sand mine extension at Calga.

Council executive officer Sean Gordon said the area in which the Rocla company

plans to expand, is of high Aboriginal cultural and heritage significance.

"We are greatly concerned about the detrimental impact that the extension would have on cultural objects, sites and places as

well as the broader cultural significance of the land," Mr Gordon said.

The proposal has raised numerous community concerns, with the Department of Planning, which is the consent authority, coming

under fire for holding its exhibition period over the Christmas period.

A department spokesman said the exhibition period had been extended to 70 days from November 16 to January 25 to ensure the

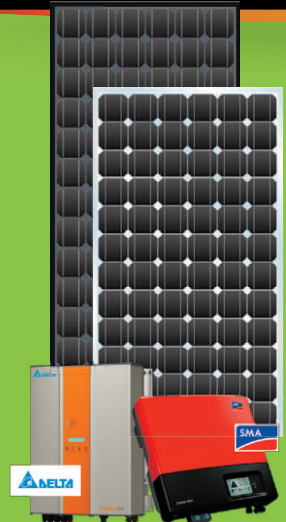
public had adequate time to consider the proposal.

But Calga Peats Ridge Community Group spokesman Peter Campbell said the one-month extension was "bloody minded" and "obstructionist", with the

group's expert hydrogeologist not available until the end of January.

The land council has lodged a formal objection with the department recommending that the development should not proceed.

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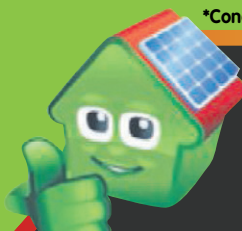
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