



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

No 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron

Minutes of Meeting

23SQN/L11962433

MINUTES OF THE 37th MEETING OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG), HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, 23 SQUADRON, 15 MAY 18

Attendees:

WGCDR R Dyke	RAAF AMB ABXO	Chairperson
SQNLDR A Smith	23SQN XO	
SQNLDR D Nott	RES Community Engagement Officer	
Mr C Hood	RAAF AMB A/BSM	
Ms L Wapler	PFAS Investigation & Management Branch	
Ms V Glyde	PFAS Investigation & Management Branch	
The Hon S Neumann, MP	Federal Member for Blair	
Cr D Pahlke	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 10	
Mr I Dainer	Willowbank Area Group - Vice President	
Mr G Hatchman	Willowbank Area Group - President	
Mr D Hooper	Winston Glades Community Group	
Mrs L Hooper	Winston Glades Community Group	
Mr B Behm	Local Resident	
Mr P Conroy	Local Resident	
Mrs R Conroy	Local Resident	
Mr M Goddard	Local Resident	
LAC N Raddie	23SQN Orderly Room	Meeting Secretary

Apologies:

Ms J Howard, MP	Member for Ipswich
Mr J Madden, MP	Member for Ipswich West
Cr C Pisasale	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 8
Mr G McLay	West Moreton Anglican College
Mrs L Ashton-Stewart	Local Resident
Mrs G Ashton	Local Resident

ITEM 1: OPENING

1. The ACWG meeting opened at 1704 h. WGCDR Rosemary Dyke welcomed all present.

ITEM 2 / ITEM 3: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ATTENDEES/APOLOGIES

2. WGCDR Dyke carried out a review of apologies received as detailed in the meeting agenda.

ITEM 4: CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

3. All attendees acknowledged that they had received and read the previous meeting's minutes. No issues or concerns were raised with the previous minutes and they were unanimously accepted.

ITEM 5: PFAS INVESTIGATION PROJECT – PROGRESS UPDATE

4. Ms Virginia Glyde introduced herself and Ms Leslie Wapler as the representatives for the PFAS Investigation and Management Team, whilst also offering the project hotline number as a method of answering one on one questions as to what stage the investigation is currently at.

5. Ms Wapler then advised that the initial sampling part of the project is now complete, and reporting is underway. Initial results of that sampling had in fact already been delivered to property owners near Amberley, the contents of which confirmed that they are now entering the next stage of the process, which is the Human Health Risk Assessment.

6. The Human Health Risk Assessment will show the potential exposure pathways for PFAS, looking particularly at consumption of produce such as eggs or plants that were grown or produced in the PFAS affected area. This plan for the latest phase is now in the review phase, but sampling activity had already begun.

7. Other aspects yet to begin are the Ecological Risk Assessment, which looks at potential impacts on eco systems.

8. Reporting for projects already complete or underway are hoped to be available in August – September, although there is some flexibility in this due to a range of variable factors.

9. Finally, the hotline was reiterated, and thanks were given to those directly involved in making access to land available to the sampling teams. Questions were fielded.

10. George Hatchman questioned whether the permeability of the local soil was considered during the research. Ms Wapler confirmed it was and will indeed be a part of the final publicly available report, which will be both in-depth scientifically whilst also being accessible to those not scientifically inclined.

11. Peter Conroy expanded on this question as to the effect of recent and historical flood events on the survey. Ms Wapler confirmed that all recent flood events were considered.

12. The PFAS team made their apologies and left the meeting at 1712 h.

ITEM 6: BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Cunningham Highway Upgrade

13. The Honourable Shayne Neumann, Federal Member for Blair, provided an update on the financial position of the upgrade. Labour announced that \$170 million dollars was promised towards the upgrade if they won the next election, which would be for the stretch from Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek and this was matched by the current Government, giving the project bi-partisan commitment. Of note, funding is to be split between this project and the Darra to Rocklea project. The project now lies in the hands of the State Government who need to match the Federal Government's commitment.

14. If all parties make funding commitments, the business case will be assessed, and preparatory work will begin in the next year or two. Of note, the project is not in the State Government's budget, which means the decision will not be made until the next State budget cycle.
15. Mr Neumann gave credit to both sides of Government in seeing the benefit of the project.
16. Finally, note was made of the fact that the Shadow Minister for Defence, Richard Marles MP, will be visiting the region in the coming days, whereby he will get a briefing of what's happening on the base by Mr Neumann.
17. Mr Neumann then gave public tribute to the Willowbank Action Group (WAG) and commended them on their incessant and strong advocacy for the highway upgrade. George Hatchman thanked the Member for his comments.
18. Cr Pahlke reiterated that the upgrade could still be five years away and Mr Neumann confirmed that the money would most likely come in several stages as and when the business cases were updated, since this type of infrastructure project takes time to get underway.
19. George Hatchman put it on record and thanked Ian Dainer for penning the original letters that started the effort for the upgrade.
20. WGCDR Dyke confirmed that road count statistics were still required, as per the last meeting's minutes.
21. Cr Pahlke acknowledged this and added that these statistics are being affected by ongoing applications such as the Mt Walker Quarry and Lantrak, which could add 150 semi-trailers a day to the data being sought.

Timings of Earth Vibrations

22. WGCDR Dyke introduced this item and SQNLDR Smith directed the discussion at Mr Behm, who confirmed that the issue was one of vibrations being felt and not heard. SQNLDR Smith discussed the timing of events that were given by Mr Behm and confirmed that only one of the occasions of the vibrations coincided with the engine test cell running. Mr Behm confirmed that the engine test cell was only contributing background noise and not vibrations. Indeed, it was suggested that the likely cause of the vibrations were the compactors working on the hardstand. SQNLDR Smith requested ongoing timing updates from Mr Behm to pinpoint the source of the vibrations.
23. The additional noise of aircraft and equipment from Operation ATLAS (Commonwealth Games) was discussed and it was agreed it certainly added to recent noise.
24. A short discussion took place as to whether the local mines could be adding to these vibrations, but this was dismissed since they only use explosives around midday.

Date of First ACWG Meeting

25. WGCDR Dyke moved to a previous item (Paragraph 45 of the 36th Meeting) which discussed when the first meeting had occurred for the ACWG. This was identified as 16 Apr 2009.
26. Cr Pahlke commented on how long the meetings had been running and started a discussion about what the ACWG stood for and what were the Terms of Reference. The question was put to the meeting. Discussion initially centred around the early meetings' minutes and some of the initial agreements such as availability of minutes and timings of meetings. Ian Dainer suggested that the

genesis of the ACWG came from the arrival of the Super Hornet, its impacts and RAAF Base Amberley's desire to consult with the local community on issues; a community forum grew from this and those initial reasons were therefore the Terms of Reference. SQNLDR Smith agreed, yet interjected that those initial concerns have now evolved into issues that vary from local base issues to external issues such as the Cunningham Highway upgrade. Ian Dainer responded with the fact that the forum's importance, whilst allowing the RAAF Base to involve the local community, lay in the fact that the transient nature of the base command gave continuity to the community who were more permanent. In addition, issues such as the Cunningham Highway directly affects both on-base personnel and the local community, as does the Lantrak waste facility plans.

27. WGCDCR Dyke agreed that the forum was still an important means to working through issues in the context of what the base can influence and the original Terms of Reference are thus still valid, though there is the need to ensure that the forum is continually reviewed to meet the needs of all parties involved.

28. WGCDCR Dyke suggested there would be value in starting a review of the Terms of Reference so long as the terms were in the context of what RAAF Amberley can realistically influence.

29. Ian Dainer agreed with WGCDCR Dyke and then WGCDCR Dyke put it to the members present as to the viability of reviewing the Terms of Reference as an ongoing action item. Cr Pahlke read out several items from an old set of minutes that related to earlier Terms of Reference and thus agreed a review should be conducted. Of interest to Cr Pahlke was the inclusion of a greater membership, instead of rejecting new members. SQNLDR Smith interjected with reasons for rejection of specific applicants. Cr Pahlke responded with concerns from constituents who are not on the committee yet suffer effects to their properties without any means of recognition of their issues. This point was furthered by Mr Behm, who explained his lengthy search for a draft copy of the Public Environmental Report (PER), whose origins were eventually tracked back to a meeting on the 23 Jun 09 (Item seven). It was noted that in subsequent meetings the draft was never completed. Mr Behm passed around a document, which was described as a dumbed down version of the original 400-page document. Mr Behm suggested that no record of this original document had ever been recorded in the minutes of any meetings.

30. WGCDCR Dyke proposed a way forward, with emphasis on the fact that this would always have limitations, especially around the strategic level decisions. The potential way forward was suggested as initially identifying a process that an individual might go through to put a case forward for review whenever angst existed. Cr Pahlke reiterated that the Terms of Reference, being ten years old, need reviewing especially in regard to representation on the committee. WGCDCR Dyke reiterated that any new terms could not be directed at the changes to strategic items such as the ANEF. Cr Pahlke's response was that a consultative process involved listening to those affected and not simply transmitting information. WGCDCR Dyke agreed to the importance of consultation but pointed out that it was also important to recognise who was entering into the consultation and for what reason, since some of the possible consultation items would be outside the influence of the base and thus expanding the forum to include such interested parties is most likely not in the interest of the ACWG.

31. **For action.** WGCDCR Dyke suggested two action points: firstly, to review the original Terms of Reference and secondly, to propose a strategy or process that will give individuals guidance to raise concerns against the noise zones, noting this second point is a different avenue to expanding the scope of the ACWG.

32. George Hatchman introduced the notion of Injurious Affection and how the change of material use of land opens up the possibilities of compensation. In addition, Mr Hatchman expanded on the idea of the base and the community being tied together and thus need to work together. Shayne Neumann added his explanation of Injurious Affection and the fact that it does indeed exist in other States and Territories.

33. Shayne Neumann, due to having another meeting, excused himself and left the forum at 1754 h.

Removal of Signage along the Perimeter Fence

34. WGCDR Dyke raised a previous action item, which involved the removal of signage along the fence line. Chris Hood confirmed that Spotless had inspected the signs in question, which appeared to have fallen off. The signs were immediately reinstated. Mr Behm expressed his concerns that the instructions on the sign were not being read or followed, which had flow on effects to his property. In addition, when a complaint was made about it over the phone the response was not adequate. Mrs Conroy added to Mr Behm's concerns about the use of spotlights when passing their property at night, suggesting it only seemed to be one individual.

Additional Noise Monitoring Devices

35. WGCDR Dyke addressed this previous action item 29 reference Paragraph 28 from the Minutes of the 36th Meeting. SQNLDR Smith confirmed that the base has engaged a consultation firm to provide another six additional noise monitoring terminals for the Amberley area. As noise consultants they will monitor ANEF contours and design, and from their findings the base will approach the public and engage in a consultation session. This session would not be limited to occurring on base, it could in fact be at a community hall. Mr Behm asked the question as to whether the noise monitors already in place could be moved around to locations such as the back gate, since entry onto the base early in the morning is excessive and noisy. Mrs Conroy supported this complaint. SQNLDR Smith confirmed there is provision for another six monitors, but confirmed that this type of noise monitoring needed to be done in a pre-determined manner since the noise monitors are fed directly to Canberra so as to better monitor the noise in relation to flying. It was confirmed that Amberley is indeed a small town with small town issues such as traffic offences. To that end, Queensland Police Service regularly monitor traffic issues and issue fines and this is with the full support of SADFO.

Anzac Day

36. WGCDR Dyke addressed the last item from the previous minutes, which was Anzac Day. Thanks were given to the ACWG for their representation in laying a wreath alongside WGCDR Dyke.

ITEM 7: AMBERLEY BASE UPDATE

37. WGCDR Dyke discussed the recent tempo of the base being increased due to supporting the Commonwealth Games, a highly successful event both here and at the Games. The meeting was assured that advice will always be given of future events as and when they are known, such as exercises. Construction works are continuing throughout the base, which presents issues particularly with the volume of traffic including heavy vehicles. This will be monitored closely as and when they occur.

ITEM 8: NOISE COMPLAINTS

38. SQNLDR Smith spoke about the database of recent noise complaints (Annex A), explaining that the listings no longer give aircraft types or timings, however the report does indicate there has been no significant increase or decrease in complaints, other than for the Commonwealth Games, which was expected due to increase in rotary wing aircraft that could fly in different ways that are not normally seen over this region.

ITEM 9: E&IG AMB FIRE WEED TREATMENT

39. Chris Hood confirmed that a subject matter expert had been engaged for the purposes of how and when it was best to treat fire weed around the base. It had been decided that it needed to coincide with the first rain of winter.

40. **Recommendation.** Mr Hood requested that neighbouring properties would need to treat their fire weed at the same time to achieve the best result for the entire estate. Mr Behm confirmed he stays on top of the issue and whilst it has been a problem in the past, it does not seem to be an issue this year.

Buffer Zone on Eastern Side of Base

41. Mr Behm confirmed that there has been an issue of drivers hiding 'stock' in the long grass along the fence. He reiterated that a request had been made to cut the grass in which these items were being hidden. As yet it had not been done. Mr Behm passed around a map of the affected area. Mr Hood advised such occurrences should be reported to the local police, which Mr Behm immediately rejected since he had been told by the police to ring Crime Stoppers.

42. **Recommendation.** Mr Hood advised that he shall re-submit the request to have the grass cut.

43. **Recommendation.** WGCDCR Dyke confirmed that once notification has been received that the grass has been cut an inspection will be conducted to ensure it has indeed been completed.

44. Mrs Conroy added that cars had been causing issues by doing burnouts in the car park of the new control tower, one of which was a trade worker from Lendlease. This was reported to Lendlease.

45. **Recommendation.** Chris Hood requested that he be copied in on such reports in order that he can also contact Lendlease.

ADF Consideration to Lantrak's Development Approval (DA)

46. George Hatchman spoke of the New Hope Mining Company's development around the base. Mr Hatchman advised that he had been approached by Jim Murphy from Lantrak who spoke of the desire to develop a nearby disused mining void (owned by New Hope Mining) into a waste facility for construction materials. Mr Hatchman spoke of his surprise at this development, the lack of rehabilitation of the void left by the mining company (as per the EMOS), the stigma and noise of the waste facility and the fact the base is within a very short distance of the dump, which is surely going to cause PFAS issues to the base and in particular the on base accommodation areas. In addition, the waste facility and the base will share entry routes for the next 30 years, whilst also impacting some historical aspects of Amberley Base.

47. **Recommendation.** WGCDR Dyke agreed completely and will discuss this issue further with SADFO.

48. Ian Dainer supplemented this argument with an estimate of 150 trucks per day using the waste facility.

Councillor Pahlke's Concerns

49. Cr Pahlke spoke of the Australian Super Hornet Public Environment Report (PER) and reiterated that WGCDR Dyke was still to investigate where the original report went. Cr Pahlke wishes to see the timeline of the report and how it proceeded. SQNLDR Smith suggested that the report is most likely lost and all that remains is the file that is already held within previous minutes of the ACWG and this in itself appears to be thorough enough.

50. Cr Pahlke gave a brief overview of his newsletter and gave praise for the attendance at all the Anzac Day parades that he attended.

51. An overview was also given by Cr Pahlke as to local mining areas and particularly the EMOS conditions for areas such as that being developed by Lantrak. Cr Pahlke had spoken to town planning and said he raised the question as to whether the land had to be rehabilitated according to the EMOS before the void was changed to a waste facility. He confirmed that there is no legal requirement for them to complete the rehabilitation, but he will, as a councillor, pursue this further.

52. Finally, Cr Pahlke talked about the possibility of the local council being dismissed and his possible demise within a few weeks, with the result being that the local area will not have an elected council for up to two years. Instead, an administrator will be installed and thus applications such as Lantrak's will be dealt with by the administrative council in a clinical way with no input by local councillors. Furthermore, within the ten council divisions affected, none will have any input to local matters for up to two years. Cr Pahlke indicated he will submit his own case to remain and if the worse happens whereby he is no longer a councillor he will attend a final farewell meeting.

ITEM 10: COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE'S FEEDBACK

53. Don Hooper reported that his community appreciates that, through the ACWG, they get to know what is happening on the base. In addition, he spoke of the local school's Emergency Services Day and how the RAAF Base could maybe do something similar to raise their profile in the community.

54. **Recommendation.** WGCDR Dyke indicated that this could be looked at as part of the Community Engagement Plan. SQNLDR Nott added that elements of RAAF Amberley did indeed take part in the Ipswich Festival this year as part of ongoing community engagement.

ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS

55. Peter Conroy asked what to expect in the near future for construction on the eastern side of the base. SQNLDR Smith assured there was no immediate plans other than currently unfunded and aspirational reviews into potential use of that side of Amberley. However, due to ordnance loading that occurs on the eastern side of the base there are limitations to any further development in that area.

56. Matthew Goddard raised the subject of undesirable persons making their way down tracks on the eastern side of the base.

57. Evan Dawson spoke briefly and indicated that there are no issues arising in his area in relation to the base. In addition, he congratulated Ian Dainer on the development of the Memorial Drive.
58. George Hatchman spoke of the local Willowbank community's disappointment in not getting the required tower for their NBN, due to height restrictions imposed by the Base, but happily will be getting fibre to the kerb instead.
59. SQNLDR Nott spoke of her recent interactions with Lifestyle Queensland and the Ipswich City Council media team. The reasoning behind these interactions is to raise the profile of the Base and let the local community know more about the running of the Base and the issues that are concerning them. Cr Pahlke asked if these news items could contain a structure chart of the Base to give the public a better overview of the Base structure.
60. **Recommendation.** SQNLDR Nott will consider this request although the Base structure is not quite as simple as it appears.
61. George Hatchman asked if some of these items could be passed to the Moreton News in order that such stories could reach other interested audiences.
62. **Recommendation.** SQNLDR Nott will consider this request.
63. In closing, WGCDR Dyke invited any other points.
64. Ian Dainer spoke of his oversight of the Anzac Centenary. For this, he has proposed that Southern Amberley Road be co-named (not re-named) as the Avenue of Honour with suitable markers placed along it to recognise the Centenary, given the road has played a large part in the community who enlisted into service going back to 1914. Council is currently in the process of designing possible markers. The suggested date of this dedication is 14th December 2018 to mark the 101st Anniversary of the placement of the original Amberley memorial.

ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING

65. The next meeting for the ACWG will be held at 23SQN HQ Spurgeon Room on 14 August 2018.
66. The meeting was officially closed at 1852 h.

A. Smith
SQNLDR
A/Chairperson

17 Jul 18

C Hood
MR
A/Base Support Manager

Jul 18

Annex:

- A. Noise Complaints Report (7 Feb – 8 May 18)

NOISE COMPLAINTS**07 Feb – 08 May 18**

DATE	TIME	AREA	AIRCRAFT
07-Feb-18	0940	Chinghee Creek QLD	C17
08-Feb-18	1643	Brassall	FA18F
19-Feb-18	1100	Victoria Hill QLD	FA18F
24-Feb-18	1300	Strathbogie VIC	C17
26-Feb-18	1030	Mount Walker	
27-Feb-18	1527	Cryna QLD	
27-Feb-18	1530	Kerry QLD	C17
28-Feb-18	1005	Cryna QLD	
28-Feb-18	1004	Wadeville NSW	
07-Mar-18	2224		C17
07-Mar-18	2110	Eastern Heights	C17
07-Mar-18	2230	Eastern Heights	C17
07-Mar-18	2255	Flinders View	C17
13-Mar-18	1428	One Mile	
14-Mar-18	1845	Lowood	
19-Mar-18		Coominya	
21-Mar-18		One Mile	
27-Mar-18		Karrabin	
28-Mar-18		Lismore NSW	
27-Mar-18		Purga	
04-Apr-18		One Mile	

17-Apr-18		Upper Mt Gravatt	
16-Apr-18		Mitchelton	
20-Apr-18		Purga	
21-Apr-18		Caboolture	
21-Apr-18		Caboolture	
27-Apr-18		Esk	
01-May-18		Yangan QLD	