



**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE**  
No 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron

**Minutes of  
Meeting**

23SQN/L8001047

**See distribution**

**MINUTES OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG)  
MEETING HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, 23 SQUADRON, 16 FEB 16**

**Attendees:**

SQNLDR M Clarke	RAAF OIC Visits Cell	Chairperson
Mrs M Parr	RAAF AMB A/BSM	
Mr N Hughes	Representing the Federal Member for Blair	
Cr C Pisasale	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 8	
Mr G Hatchman	Willowbank Area Group – President	
Mr R Newsham	Marburg Residents Association	
Ms L Ashton-Stewart	Local Resident	
Mr B Behm	Local Resident	
Mr P Conroy	Local Resident	
Mrs R Conroy	Local Resident	
Mr M Goddard	Local Resident	
Mr D Hooper	Local Resident	
Mrs L Hooper	Local Resident	
AC H Long	23SQN	Meeting Secretary

**Apologies:**

WGCDR T Blair	RAAF AMB ABXO
The Hon S Neumann, MP	Federal Member for Blair
Ms J Howard, MP	Member for Ipswich
Mr I Rickuss, MP	Member for Lockyer
Cr D Pahlke	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 10
Cr C Bromage	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 6
Mr I Dainer	Willowbank Area Group – Vice President
Mr G McLay	West Moreton Anglican College
Ms G Ashton	Local Resident

**ITEM 1: OPENING**

1. The ACWG meeting opened at 1700 h. SQNLDR Matt Clarke welcomed all present. He introduced his new role within the RAAF and advised that the new permanent BSM is due to commence work on 01 May 16. Ms Maryvonne Parr was then introduced as the A/BSM during this transition period.

## **ITEM 2: CONFIRMATION OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

2. All attendees acknowledged that they had received and read the previous meeting's minutes and that they were an accurate reflection of the matters discussed in that meeting. Ms L Ashton-Stewart stated that both Mr E Dawson and Mr T Dawson were both in attendance for the last meeting and requested that this is reflected on the previous minutes.

**For action:** Ms Lyn Lines to amend.

## **ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

3. There was no business to discuss from the previous minutes.

## **ITEM 4: AMBERLEY BASE UPDATE**

### **Amberley Local Flying Tempo**

4. SQNLDR Clarke advised the ACWG that currently Amberley is experiencing a quiet flying period due to the following:

- a. 1SQN is currently participating on Exercise Red Flag, held in America. Ex Red Flag is considered to be one of the largest Joint-Nation fast jet held events in the world. 1SQN Super Hornets will return back to Amberley within the next few weeks.
- b. 6SQN is also absent from Amberley participating in local exercises and are anticipated to return to Amberley next week.
- c. The remaining Amberley based flying Squadrons (33SQN – KC30) and (36SQN – C17) are conducting usual flying in and out of Amberley.

### **Amberley Infrastructure Upgrades**

5. Mentioned and detailed in the previous ACWG Meeting, SQNLDR Clarke advised that base infrastructure upgrades are going to ramp up this year to support the following:

- a. Upgraded contractor gate for Heavy Vehicle access.
- b. ATC Tower relocation.
- c. C-27 Spartan and EA-18G Growler infrastructure developments to host these new platforms. Meetings are to commence within the next month to discuss these projects.

### **Airfield Fire Fighting Foam (AFFF)**

6. SQNLDR Clarke provided a brief overview regarding the use of AFFF used at both civilian and RAAF airfields. The old formula of AFFF (containing PFOS and PFOA) has not been used in the Defence Force for approximately six years and a testing program is underway for all sites where it was used. SQNLDR Clarke also asked those present whether anyone was using or drinking bore water. No one claimed to drink bore water however Mr Goddard said that he used his bore to fill up his swimming pool.

7. Mr Goddard also raised concerns with a type of foam he has found in the creek near his property. Mr Goddard requested clarification as to what it could be.

8. SQNLDR Clarke advised that it is highly unlikely that the foam found is in relation to AFFF, as AFFF is only in a foam form when it is first discharged. Mr Goddard suspected it may be as a result of a commercial discharge into the creek from the nearby meatworks.

**For Action:** SQNLDR Clarke will enquire whether a sample of the foam can be added to the routine water quality testing performed by Defence in Warrill Creek.

9. SQNLDR Clarke further advised that AFFF (PFOS / PFOA) testing for RAAF Base Amberley is to occur in October this year.

### **Behm's Road Gatehouse**

10. SQNLDR Clarke made mention that the recently completed Behm's Road gatehouse has proved beneficial for traffic congestion through Amberley. Previously members would have had to use the Northern Perimeter Rd and when closed for aircraft loading, which evidently placed a considerable amount of extra traffic on the Cunningham Highway.

### **ITEM 5: NOISE COMPLAINTS**

11. SQNLDR Clarke made mention that from 15 Oct 15 to 11 Feb 16 (annex A), there were 20 noise complaints taken, with the majority of complaints being in relation to the C-17 aircraft. SQNLDR Clarke made the following comments regarding this:

- a. The C-17 are required to complete certain training qualifications which include low level flying around terrain. This is exercised to simulate an aircraft flying below radar when they are deployed into more hostile areas.
- b. Whilst flying low through the Great Dividing Range and surrounding areas, pilots and their navigators incorporate measures to avoid certain areas where noise complaints are more common.

### **ITEM 6: DTMR MAINTENANCE ON CUNNINGHAM HIGHWAY ENTRANCE TO THE BASE**

12. SQNLDR Clarke forwarded on apologies from Cr Pahlke as he was not present to discuss the matter of having the Cunningham Highway updated to cater for the growing area.

### **ITEM 7: MR BEHM'S CONCERNS**

#### **Noxious Weed Control**

13. Mr Behm raised his concerns in regards to the contractors who are tasked to spray the noxious weeds along Behms Road, but ignore the other weeds surrounding them. Mr Behm further enquired as to whether anyone from RAAF Base Amberley monitors these types of requests, and to see if they meet satisfactory standards.

14. The frequency that this is currently conducted is dependant on local residents raising requests. Mrs Parr advised Mr Behm that there is currently a program being formed to have the weed spraying done on a regular basis. Mrs Parr further stated that the contractors will be advised to be more thorough.

#### **Vehicle Patrolling on Perimeter Fence**

15. Mr Behm and Mrs Conroy stated that they have witnessed vehicles driving erratically along both their fence lines late at night / early hours of the morning. The vehicles were believed to have been both MSS Security vehicles and unmarked white four-wheeled drive.

16. SQNLDR Clarke requested that further information regarding these events to be passed forward so that enquiries can be made to rectify this reoccurring issue.

#### **Council Division of Boundaries**

17. Mr Behm enquired about the upcoming changes in the Council Division of Boundaries.

18. Cr Pisasale made mention on the changes, which can be found in annex B.

### **ITEM 8: COUNCIL REPORTS ON DEFENCE ISSUES**

19. There were no reports regarding Defence issues.

### **ITEM 9: COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES' FEEDBACK**

#### **Cunningham Highway Upgrade**

20. Mr Hatchman made mention of the importance of upgrading the Cunningham Highway as the growing community, and population of the RAAF Base will continue to cause an exponential growth in traffic congestion.

21. SQNLDR Clarke advised that with the completion of the new contractor's gate on base, all Defence heavy vehicles will bypass Southern Amberley Road, reducing congestion into the main gate.

#### **Wellington Rise Noise Monitoring Location**

22. In response to a prior request, Mr Hatchman advised that from a community's point of view, a desirable location for a noise monitoring point would be on the Wellington Rise. This location would be suitable as it is central to Willowbank and is elevated.

### **ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Heritage Centre**

23. SQNLDR Clarke advised the attendees that on Sun 21 Feb 16, the Heritage Centre will be hosting its monthly event with an anticipated crowd of approximately 1000 people.

### **Behms Road Alarm**

24. Mr Behm advised that numerous times the audible alarm on the septic system near the new back gate has been triggered. The alarm notification lights are currently facing into his paddock. Mr Behm enquired as to whether the alarm lights can be positioned facing in towards the RAAF Base, so that when triggered, MSS and Defence members can identify an alarm has been triggered.

**For Action** – BSM to chase up this reoccurring issue with MSS Security.

### **ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING**

25. The next meeting will be held at RAAF Base Amberley mid May 16 in the Spurgeon Room. Lyn Lines will provide more information closer to the date.

### **ITEM 12: MEETING CLOSED**

26. The meeting was officially closed by SQNLDR Clarke at 1806 h.



**M Clarke**  
SQNLDR  
Chairperson  
(on behalf of ABXO)

30 Mar 16



**M Parr**  
MRS  
A/BSM

30 Mar 16

### **Annexes:**

- A. Noise Complaints Report – 15 Oct 15 - 11 Feb 16
- B. Cr Pisasale's Report - 16 Feb 16

**NOISE COMPLAINTS****15 Oct 15 – 11 Feb 16**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>AIRCRAFT</b>
15-Oct-15	1020	Mummulgum	FA 18F
26-Oct-15	1830	Gracemere	UNKN
26-Oct-15	0915	Lennox Heads	FA18F
26-Oct-15	1604	Tabulam	UNKN
4-Nov-15	1025	Sadliers Crossing	C17
4-Nov-15	1210	Bardon	C17
3-Nov-15	2010	Fernvale	FA 18F
4-Nov-15	1435	Ashgrove	C17
4-Nov-15	1113	The Gap	C17
5-Nov-15	0810	Bardon	C17
16-Nov-15	1500	Spring Creek	C17
19-Nov-15	1104	Glenlyon	C17
23-Nov-15	1215	Tweed Heads West	C17
26-Nov-15	1307	Purga	C17
1-Dec-15	1625	Hope Island	FA 18F
3-Dec-15	1406	Taree	C17
3-Dec-15	1625	Manning Valley	C17
18-Jan-16	1200	Karara	FA18F
10-Feb-16	1145	HoneyWood, Tasmania	UNKN
10-Feb-16	1205	Kirkwood	UNKN

ANNEX B TO  
23SQN/L8001047  
DATED 30 MAR 16

## AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG)

16<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Report by Cr. Charlie Pisasale

**Wulkuraka Maintenance Centre:** Open day held last Saturday.

**Street Lighting:** New LED street lights in both One Mile & Leichhardt have now all been installed. These are far more efficient on both the dollar savings side and also produce much brighter levels.

**Gerald Ronayne Park:** This park adjoins Ronayne Circle and Vineyard Street, and can be accessed through a pedestrian walkway from Chubb Street, One Mile. The Park is also a very short distance from the George & Eileen Hastings Softball Grounds. The master plan construction for this newly completed park is valued over \$300,000.

**Leichhardt Swim Centre:** Upgrades are currently underway for the new children's play area which will adjoin the junior play pool fitted with a "beach" style entry.

**Leichhardt Park:** Programmed works were completed in October and included an extension to the existing shelter, pathway and an additional electric BBQ, landscaping and turf at cost of \$36,000.

**One Mile Shops:** "Miles" – new Hot Bread Shop is now open (space formerly Big Dads Pie). Dr Surgery next door is currently seeking a larger space. Patients literally need to sit outside in busy times.

**Leichhardt State School:** Celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The P&C are in the process of formalising a working group; any interested residents can contact Nicole Curwen directly at the school on 3813 3222.

**Movies in the Park:** Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm at Lobley Park in Churchill, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" screening.

**Boundary Changes:** Residents are advised of changes to divisional boundaries as at the next Local Government election on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Boundary changes within the local area will see most of Leichhardt changing from Division 6 to Division 8. All properties East of Aspinall Street will change to Division 8 from that date. All of RAAF Base Amberley will also change to Division 8 from the current Division 10.