



# ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

No 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron

## Minutes of Meeting

23SQN/L9280816

See distribution

### MINUTES OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG) MEETING HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, 23 SQUADRON, 08 NOV 16

#### Attendees:

WGCDR T Blair	RAAF AMB ABXO	Chairperson
Mr J Craig	RAAF AMB BSM	
Mr M Clarke	PFAS Taskforce Regional Liaison Officer – AMB & TVL	
Cr D Pahlke	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 10	
Mr G Hatchman	Willowbank Area Group – President	
Mr I Dainer	Willowbank Area Group – Vice President	
Mr R Newsham	Marburg Residents Associations	
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	
LACW L Taylor	23SQN	Meeting Secretary

#### Apologies:

The Hon S Neumann, MP	Federal Member for Blair
Ms J Howard, MP	Member for Ipswich
Cr C Pisasale	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 8
Cr C Bromage	Ipswich City Council – Councillor Division 6
Mr G McLay	West Moreton Anglican College
Mr G Hatchman	Willowbank Area Group – President
Mrs G Ashton	Local Resident
Ms L Ashton-Stewart	Local Resident

#### ITEM 1: OPENING

1. The ACWG meeting opened at 1700 h. WGCDR Tony Blair welcomed all present. Matt Clarke was then introduced as the previous BSM and now working with a new section in Canberra as the Amberley and Townsville representative for the current contamination issue. There was also a very serious noise complaint from a local resident Mark Blackwood. An invitation was extended to him to attend the meeting, but he was not present.

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

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

### ITEM 3: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

3. An action item was raised regarding the PFAS testing. Matt Clarke spoke on the following issues:
  - a. PFOS and PFOA or PFAS, which is used in fire fighting foam, does not easily break down when released into the environment.
  - b. The main issue with Defence using PFOS and PFOA is that in Williamtown and Oakey there was an incident of the Fire Fighting foam saturating the ground and soaking into the bore water and down local streams. In Amberley samples were taken from bores and different locations on Base. Six ground water bores and four surface water locations were tested. European standards were used to compare the results as Australia has no current standard. The results from the samples taken from the bores were then presented as coming in well under the tolerable daily intake for PFOS and PFOA. The surface water tests were on two occasions higher than drinking water standards but well below the recreational level. All reports and findings are available on the PFAS website.
  - c. Over the coming months a decision will be made about which sites will go into the detailed investigation first. Mr Bill Behm raised the question in relation to blood tests and if they were needed. Matt Clarke's response was that Williamtown and Oakey are the only sites with Government funded blood testing at this point. Government will make a decision in the new year on its expansion.
4. An action item was raised regarding the use of the noise monitors. WCDGR Blair posed the question to Canberra and they responded "yes" although they mentioned that they get some background noise come up in their data analysis (they can blank that out), practically the locations would not suit. Other advice was given on how to approach it.

### ITEM 4: AMBERLEY BASE UPDATE

5. WGCDR Blair advised of the following current and future activities at Amberley:
  - a. Since the last meeting the Singaporeans have been and gone. Mr Bill Behm mentioned that "the size of the generator they had was obnoxious and was going all night, every night." WGCDR Blair mentioned that this will be brought up the next time they visit and will try to avoid it.
  - b. RAAF Base Amberley has a lot of projects under way with a lot of buildings being demolished.
  - c. From an OPS point of view everything is normal. Flying rate is still quite high but nothing out of the ordinary. Mr Jim Craig mentioned that there will be a high tempo of construction going on around the Base and a lot will be going on for the next 2 to 3 years.

## ITEM 5: NOISE COMPLAINTS

### Noise Report for 28 Jul – 01 Nov 16

6. WGCDR Blair summarised the Noise Report for the period. The records have remained steady and consistent with what was forecast.
  - a. Noise complaints were relatively high compared to what we would normally see. The complaints made on 23 September 2016 were the day prior to River Fire (River Fire practice) and the last few were the Townsville Air Show practice.
  - b. As far as noise complaints go in general, two escalated to a Ministerial complaint where the issue raised was about safety, regarding the circuit pattern being too low.
  - c. WGCDR Blair mentioned the Australian Super Hornet Annual Noise Report for 2015 and the report is available on the Air Force Website. Also the ANEF is being re-written; it will forecast what the noise zones are around different airfields and will be used in town planning.

## ITEM 6: ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONCERNS

### Ipswich Rosewood Road

7. Mr Jim Craig raised the issue with Cr Pahlke about safety concerns along the Ipswich Rosewood Road regarding the long grass which provides a good hiding spot for kangaroos along the road. The question was also asked about the possibility of better lighting along that road. Cr Pahlke mentioned that the issue would be dealt with at a State Council level and the best course of action would be to ring up and report it.

### Fireweed

8. Mr Craig then raised the issue of Fireweed, and mentioned that the contractors were putting in place a weed management system and will be put into effect at the end of 2016, start 2017.

### Report on Domestic Tank Testing

9. Mr Behm presented the report from 2014 and asked about the report on the second round of tank testing. WGCDR Blair advised that he did not know anything about it. Mr Behm mentioned that it was before WGCDR Blair's time.

**For action:** Mr Jim Craig to follow up.

### Report on Warrill Creek

10. Mr Bill Behm inquired about contractors by the name of Jacobs conducting testing on Warrill Creek as they approached him about testing a water hole on his property. Mr Behm also mentioned that after the last big storm Warrill Creek smelt like a men's urinal, "the smell was unbelievable" and the question was raised about where it was coming from.

**For action:** Mr Jim Craig to follow up.

### ITEM 7: COUNCIL REPORT

11. Cr Pahlke mentioned the article in the Queensland Times. It was in relation to the fireweed and the Bio Security Act being somewhat watered down, in the fact that fireweed has been downgraded from a higher priority. The responsibility is now on the land owner to manage their own land and not the State.

### ITEM 8: COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FEEDBACK

12. Mr George Hatchman mentioned the upcoming Lemons race and the possibility of RAAF Amberley Participation. It is a program to support prostate cancer. The endurance rally will take place in Willowbank and last 24 hours. It will consist of competitors racing to see who can travel the furthest in a "banged up old car" over the 24 hour period.

**For action:** Mr Hatchman to send email with details.

13. Mr Hatchman raised the topic of possibly having a bike track along Southern Amberley Road.

14. Mr Hatchman also raised the fact that Rotary is looking for new members and were interested in the possibility of having some RAAF members join. Mr Hatchman passed on a letter from Rotary to WGCDR Blair.

### ITEM 9: OTHER BUSINESS

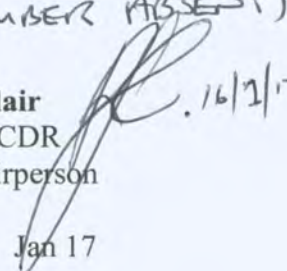
15. Mr Peter Conroy mentioned construction going on just outside the base. Mr Craig advised that this is being done by Lend Lease.

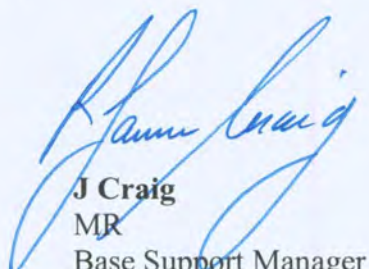
### ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

16. Attendees to be notified when the date for the next meeting has been set.

### ITEM 11: MEETING CLOSED

17. The meeting was officially closed at 1820 h.

(MEMBER ABSENT)  
  
**T Blair**  
 WGCDR  
 Chairperson  
 Jan 17

  
**J Craig**  
 MR  
 Base Support Manager  
 16 Jan 17

#### Annex:

A. Noise Complaints Report – 28 Jul – 01 Nov 16

**NOISE COMPLAINTS****28 Jul 16 – 01 Nov 16**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>AREA</b>	<b>AIRCRAFT</b>
18 Aug 16	1159	Marcoola	C-17
18 Aug 16	1135	Bongaree	C-17
01 Sep 16	1128	Amberley	F/A18-F
02 Sep 16	1153	Tamworth	F/A18-F
08 Sep 16	1240	Tara	F/A18-F
08 Sep 16	1200	Coolangatta	F/A18-F & F-15's
08 Sep 16	1045	Tara	F/A18-F
13 Sep 16	1540	Greymare	F/A18-F
14 Sep 16	1200	Inglewood	F/A18-F
23 Sep 16	1510	Brisbane	F/A18-F
23 Sep 16	1456	Albion	F/A18-F
23 Sep 16	1333	South Brisbane	F/A18-F
23 Sep 16	1255	South Brisbane	F/A18-F
27 Sep 16	1015	Willowbank	F/A18-F
29 Sep 16	1020	Willowbank	F/A18-F
06 Oct 16	2100	Eastern Heights	F/A18-F