



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron

MINUTE

23SQN/L5817849

See distribution

MINUTES OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG) MEETING HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, 23 SQUADRON, SPURGEON ROOM 08 SEPTEMBER 2014

Attendees:

WGCDR S. Nickson	RAAF AMB ABXO	Chairperson
Mr M. Clarke	RAAF AMB BSM	
Mr I. Rickuss, MP	State Government Lockyer	
Mr B. Behm	Local Resident	
Mr P. Conroy	Resident	
Mr E. Dawson	Local Resident	
Ms G. Ashton	Local Resident	
Mr G. Hatchman	Willowbank Area Group-President	
Mr I. Dainer	Willowbank Area Group	
Mr D. Hooper	Winston Glades CG	
Mrs L. Hooper	Winston Glades CG	
Mr R. Newsham	Marburg Resident	
Mrs P. Conroy	Amberley Resident	
WOFF D. Obst	23SQN	Meeting Secretary

Apologies:

The Hon S. Neumann, MP	Federal Member for Blair
Mr S. Choat, MP	Member for Ipswich West
GPCAPT J. Ward	Base Redevelopment Officer
Mr C. Bromage	Councillor Div 6
Cr C. Pisasale	Councillor Div 8
Cr D. Pahlke	Ipswich City Council
Mr G. McLay	West Moreton Anglican College
Ms L. Ashton-Stewart	Local Resident
Ms R. Conroy	Local Resident
Ms Z. New	District Amberley Guide Hut

ITEM 1: OPENING

1. The ACWG Meeting was opened at 1708 h. WGCDR Nickson welcomed all 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 and that they are an accurate reflection of the matters discussed in the meeting.

ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING

Weed Control

3. Mr Behm enquired if there was an outcome of items 3, 4 and 5 of the previous meeting. BSM advised that the spraying of weeds has been conducted. Mr Behm advised that the weed spray has not had an effect on the weeds and are about to flower again. BSM and Mr Behm discussed the issue at length of which BSM suggested Ms Linda Oliver, the Regional Environment Officer, re-visit the situation. Mr Behm advised that the contractor seems not to know what they're looking at.
4. BSM will again discuss with AMB Regional Environment Officer to attempt to resolve the issue which, by discussion, indicated it may be a contractor issue.
5. **For action.** The BSM is to contact the AMB Regional Environment Officer to receive an update on the weed control issue.

Flight Path

6. Mr Behm asked if ABXO was able to advise why he was not informed of the change to flight path. ABXO advised that there should have been a letter drop. Mr Behm advised he did not receive the advice.

Behm's Road Upgrade

7. There was a great deal of discussion with regard to the repairs of the road, who was responsible and who to contact. The road should be repaired by lunch time tomorrow (Tuesday 09 September 2014). Mr Behm advised the road is in poor condition. BSM then stated as long as traffic can get through and Mr Behm added, as long as they can get through safely.
8. Mr Behm advised he and others use their hazard lights and advised that RAAF Police Dog Handlers do not. Mr Behm advised that the RAAF Police Dog Handlers use the gravel area just on the outside of the fence and has turned to slop. ABXO advised he would discuss the RAAF Police Dog Handlers movement with their supervisor and BSM will take it up with Mr Dave Patterson.
9. **For action:** BSM to contact Mr Dave Patterson and ABXO to discuss vehicle movement with Security Officer.
10. Correction to minutes of previous meeting. Para 46 not worded right and advise the barbed wire is not causing issues for the Kangaroos. BSM advised there's not much that can be done about the fence to prevent entanglement of the Kangaroos.

Behm's Road update

11. BSM advised at this stage the road is scheduled to be completed by June 2015 at which time the back gate will close and the Behm's Road gate will open and access to the base will be via the southern perimeter road.

ITEM 4 – ABXO UPDATE

Changes to Flight Path

12. Last meeting ABXO advised of a change of flight path due to main runway upgrade and advised that this work is now complete earlier than programmed, finished on 21 July 2014, a week and a half early. Flights reverted to normal operations on the main runway. Now the work has been complete, aircraft shouldn't be operating on the East/West runway. The C17 will use the East/West runway from time to time as part of their training.

Main Activities on Base

13. **Exercise Pitch Black.** Air Force has just completed a very large and successful exercise, Pitch Black in the north around Darwin and Tindal in the Northern Territory with our other Super Hornets. They have now returned to Amberley. Super Hornets are now returning to normal flying operations with night flying this week (08-12 September 2014) to 10pm in accordance with the Super Hornet noise management plan.

14. **Transport Aircraft.** There are not too many KC30s, our Air-to-Air refuelers, flying around at the moment, a couple on base and a couple of them are in Europe being fitted out in Spain.

15. Development in the Australian Government's White paper for defence suggests that the Government may purchase an additional two C17s and an additional two or three KC30s. Still not sure if this will proceed as the C17 production is only open until next year. So there may be additional aircraft at Amberley and this presents some additional challenges for us on base. We will need to build additional tarmac aircraft parking space as they're large aircraft and park up at the northern part of the base, the base is short of parking space for our transport aircraft.

16. **Defence Logistic project.** This is a project building a large depot in the middle of the base, is almost finished and the facility will open March next year.

17. **Battle Field Airlifter, C27.** There's been a lot of planning of late for a new airframe coming to Amberley, a C27J Spartan Battle Field Airlifter, a small military cargo airplane a smaller variant to a C130 with two engines. 35 Squadron operating this aircraft will be based at Amberley as its main operating base and the most likely site for the squadron is immediately next to 23SQN nearer the runway. Demolishing a number of older buildings is required to make way for the new facility including constructing new tarmac space, hangars and its headquarters. If that site is selected, which we believe it will be, construction will commence in the next 12 to 18 months. This squadron will have 200-300 (280) personnel.

18. **Growler variant.** The additional super hornets arrive at about the same time construction commences for the Battle Field Airlifter. The Growler variant is the electronic warfare variant of the Super Hornet. The facility for that aircraft will be built just north of the 23SQN building near the existing Super Hornet squadrons.

19. Also in the next couple of years the Army 17 Construction Squadron Army civil engineering construction squadron will move to Amberley, also around 2017.

20. **G20.** The security for G20 is a Queensland Police lead operation, the Australian Defence Force is in support of that. All the heads of state will be going to Brisbane airport. There will be some activities here at Amberley leading up to G20 and over that period there will be additional people and equipment here. The G20 weekend is on 14, 15 and

16 November 2014. The base will continue to operate as per normal. Brisbane City will have a holiday but base personnel will be working. The base will have an increase in security posture during this period. There's nothing to suggest we'll have demonstrators at the front gate. At the conclusion of G20, the base will wind down to give personnel a break over Christmas.

21. **The Governor of Queensland.** The Governor of Queensland will be at Amberley next week. His Excellency the Honourable Paul De Jersey AC is the honorary Air Commodore to 23SQN and this will be his first visit to the base.

22. **Parliamentary Program.** A few weeks ago we hosted a Parliamentary Program whereby federal politicians get the opportunity to do work experience for a week with the military. Senator Penny Wright, a Green's Senator, attended this program at Amberley.

ITEM 5 – NOISE COMPLAINTS

23. The list at annex A details very few noise complaints compared to the last meeting. The difference from the previous months is we had no C17 noise complaints. These stats are a mixture of different locations, only a few being around the immediate Amberley area. Some of the other areas such as Linthorpe is west south west of Toowoomba which is the Super Hornet's designated low level flying/training.

24. For people to make a noise complaint they ring 1800 Defence and they'll be put through to the Air Base Command Post staff here at Amberley. We do collect more information than what appears on these stats but we don't go public with all the information, so this is very generic and we'll always follow up, getting back to the individual about their complaint.

25. The list of noise complaints from 24 Feb - 01 Jun 14 is located at annex A.

26. Air Force Headquarters in Canberra has just commissioned a contractor to undertake some noise testing in the area we've had some ministerial level noise complaints so an independent contractor is engaged to do the testing.

27. It was discussed briefly with regard to hot air balloons and the air space around Amberley. ABXO and BSM advised they have the same obligations as pilots of powered aircraft with regard to air space rules.

ITEM 6 – BSM UPDATE

Base Upgrade - Base Improvement project

28. There are new Base Alarm System poles going up around the base and this work is progressing well. All the road works at the front gate upgrading the security when entering the base require a Defence ID card to swipe in and out of the base.

29. BSM asked if any one heard the Base Wide Alert System sound last Wednesday. The base will conduct a twice yearly lock down rehearsal. This is when the base practices locking down facilities and limiting movements on base. The base will probably do another one March next year when we get the new alert system. The BSM will endeavour to let you know in the first meeting of the New Year when the system will be tested so you know it's not a real event.

ITEM 7 – ADVISORY UPDATE

Environment Impact Statement (EIS)

30. The F35 Joint Strike Fighter is replacing the older model F/A18, Classic Hornet, and there are three squadrons of them at RAAF Base Williamtown at Newcastle and a squadron in Tindal, Northern Territory. They won't be replaced one for one. There's a lot of work for those air bases with the introduction of these new aircraft particularly around Newcastle involving a lot of planning and community engagement as the F35 has a different noise footprint. The EIS needs to include Amberley in their assessment for the occasion we get a F35 or a squadron of F35s coming into Amberley for an exercise or shorter period transiting the base. Just like we occasionally get the older Hornets come to Amberley, we'll occasionally get the new F35. This is still three to four years away.

31. ABXO did mention that from a community point of view not having the F35s here at Amberley is most likely a good thing given the number of jets already planned for Amberley. The F35s would impose a greater security footprint.

ITEM 8 - FERAL PESTS – RABBITS

32. Mr Behm advised of rabbits in Dennis Street and has seen an increase of rabbit population at his residence. It appears their movement is along the back fence from the creek. BSM advised Mr Behm that the rabbits need to be reported to the Darling Downs Rabbit Board because the council pays them under the State act to manage the rabbit population in this area. Mr Behm advised he had managed to rid rabbits for two and bit years from his property and BSM asked why he was doing that and not the Rabbit Board. Mr Behm advised it was land owner responsibility and when they changed the rules it become landowner's expense.

33. Mr Behm further advised that if the landowner does not rid the rabbits from their property, the board will do it and send the landowner the bill. Mr Behm said he has cleaned out the rabbits from his property and now they're coming back from the back fence of the base and they're not coming from Dennis Street. He also advised that Chalk Street is full of them as well.

34. BSM said he'd deal with the rabbits inside the base's perimeter fence but outside we need to refer to the Rabbit Board. It was further stated that the rabbits on Dennis Street are on Commonwealth land. BSM asked Mr Behm if he knew if the council was not willing to deal with the rabbits there. It was stated by other meeting attendees that the Rabbit Board consisted of very few people and they're busy dealing with rabbit issues. BSM advised it will be a joint effort between Department of Defence, local council and the community to control the rabbit population on Commonwealth property and the properties joining.

ITEM 9 – COUNCIL REPORTS

35. The only Council Report received for this meeting was received from Cr Charlie Pisasale. Refer to Enclosure 1 to view this report.

36. Ian Rickuss reported briefly on the Cunningham Highway bypass project including the upgrade at the Cunningham Highway and Willowbank intersection. This project continues to be a priority for Ian Rickuss and to ensure there's funding for it. The Federal Government is funding the highway upgrade.

ITEM 10 – GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr George Hatchman

37. Mr Hatchman advised of an advisory report he'd received with regard to water tank testing that there is a higher than acceptable levels of lead and chromium as per Australian Health Standards. He further stated this is not attributed to aviation aspects. It may be, however, a concern if tank water is a drinking supply. Discussion went on mentioning that if you have town water supply there's no issue with drinking water.

38. BSM advised testing has been done on the base including control tanks nearer Brisbane and the readings of the control tanks were worse than that of the Amberley tanks. BSM further advised that any report received with regard to water tank readings is passed on to local residents as courtesy information.

Ian Rickuss

39. Mr Rickuss announced that Ammonia Nitrate trucks are/were operating through the BP service station located just outside Amberley. Should anyone notice CHEM TRANS truck parked at that BP service station, they are to notify the Transport and Main Roads authorities.

Ian Dainer

40. **Legacy fundraising.** Mr Dainer was selling Legacy badges at Bunnings all week and was supported by Amberley personnel. He said a number of people had commented on the presence of the young people; their appearance, demeanour and professional behaviour was heart warming and an absolute credit to your organisation. About \$2,500 was collected for Legacy from Amberley front gate on the Monday morning.

Ms Glenys Ashton

41. Ms Ashton mentioned fire weeds and the control of the weed. BSM advised Ms Ashton to contact Linda Oliver, 5361 2751, who initiates the contractor to spray for weeds and asked Ms Ashton to let BSM know if there's any further problem with spraying the weeds.

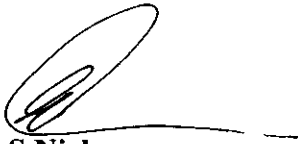
42. Also enquired to the completion date of the front gate project. BSM advised that the new technology will be activated in December of this year. Current traffic disruption will be no more than four weeks.

ITEM 11 – NEXT MEETING

43. The next meeting will be an informal one, a morning tea followed by a tour of base. ABXO advised of his change of posting from Canberra to remain at Amberley. BSM advised he will still be here with WGCDR Nickson's replacement (WGCDR Tony Blair). ABXO advised that BSM will be the continuity for the base and for the community as AIRCDRE Innes is also posted. The next meeting will be held at RAAF Base Amberley on 5 December 2014 at 1000 h in the Spurgeon room. Lyn will provide more information closer to the day.

ITEM 12 – MEETING CLOSED

44. The meeting was officially closed at 1820 h.



S Nickson
WGCDR
Chairperson

25 Nov 14



D.J. Obst
WOFF
Secretary

25 Nov 14

Annex:

A. Noise Complaints Report – 24 Feb – 01 Jun 14

Enclosure:

1. Cr Charlie Pisasale – Council Report

NOISE COMPLAINTS

02 JUN – 02 SEP 14

Date	Time	Location	A/C
02 Jun 14	31 May 14 – 11:30	Denana Avenue, Thagoona	FA18F
15 Jun 14	08:00	Riverlink	FA18F
25 Jun 14	10:30	Tin Can Bay	Helo (Civi)
26 Jun 14	14:20	Palm Beach	HAWK
29 Jun 14	15:00	Widgee <i>by phone</i>	C-130
17 Jul 14	15:30	Wulkuraka	FA18
22 Jul 14	11:45	Hagslea	Unknown
29 Jul 14	11:00	Linthorpe	FA18
02 Sep 14	14:15	Linthorpe	FA18

AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG)

8th September 2014

Report by Cr. Charlie Pisasale

ENCLOSURE ONE TO
ACWG MINUTES
DATED 25 NOV 14

Leichhardt One Mile Community Centre Management Committee: I would welcome new enquiries from community minded members regarding this committee. The diverse number of activities and programs conducted at our Centre could certainly benefit if more members joined. If you have enquiries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Centre Management for further information. I will also use this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to current and past members who have dedicated so much of their valuable time in the current and past years.

One Mile House Fire Donations: A devastating fire at 45 Chubb Street on 1st September saw Rodrigues Murphy lose his home and entire belongings. Thank you to those in the community who have been able to support "Uncle Ricky" by donating items via the Leichhardt One Mile Community Centre.

One Mile Neighbourhood Watch: This group continues to grow in number. Regular guest speakers are arranged to attend their monthly meetings. The AGM has been scheduled for Monday 15th September at 7pm at the Chubb St Uniting Church. All visitors welcome. The group will have to relocate their meeting location to the Leichhardt One Mile Community Centre as of October due to the Uniting Church in Chubb Street being sold.

Jim Finimore Oval: Work is now completed to rectify the damage sustained from the 2013 floods. Council was awaiting final approval from the State authorities. Refurbishment has work included:

- Repair/Replace flood damaged Joinery to Kitchen, Store and Office;
- Repair vinyl skirting where peeling away;
- Repair Jointing to walls;
- Paint to all damaged walls;
- Assess and repair all electrical services;
- Assess and repair all data services;
- Assess and repair all security services;
- Assess and repair all hydraulic services;
- Deep cleaning to entire ground floor facility.

Heritage Links Estate: Stage three is currently underway however a meeting has been held for an update with the new Development Management Team of changes proposed for the remaining stages of the former Ipswich Golf Course.

Cultural Fix & Update

Studio 188: Watch for foreign language films, plays, comedy, performances, special guests etc. at this unique venue.

Ipswich Civic Centre:

- Sesame Street presents Elmo's World Tour, live on stage Monday 13 October
- ANH DO – The happiest refugee Thursday 16 October
- Journey through the Cosmos Sat 8 November 8pm (Free – Bookings are a must, first come first served)
- Fleetwood Mac Friday 14 November
- Seniors Christmas Concert Tuesday 2 December 10am & 1.30pm Tickets only \$8