



DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

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Noise abatement procedures for civilian and military aircraft introduced for RAAF Base Williamtown

RAAF Base Williamtown is running a trial to introduce noise abatement procedures for civilian aircraft approaches and departures. This trial supports the work that has already been done to reduce the noise impacts of military operations at the air base.

The trial procedures, which have been in place since early October 2014, require aircraft, between 6am and 8am, to depart from runway 12 (towards the south-east) and arrive on runway 30 (from the south-east) when prevailing weather conditions and traffic patterns allow.

Number 453 Squadron Williamtown Air Traffic Control Flight is responsible for the design and implementation of the procedures.

Senior Australian Defence Force Officer for RAAF Base Williamtown, Air Commodore Steve Robertson, said the noise abatement procedures were a significant change for the better for Raymond Terrace, Medowie and Salt Ash residents.

“RAAF Base Williamtown introduced noise abatement procedures for civil aircraft at Williamtown in response to requests originating out of a community meeting with Medowie Progress Association representatives,” Air Commodore Robertson said.

“Civilian aircraft arriving and departing in early morning, and late evening were causing considerable issues around noise for people living in Raymond Terrace, Medowie and Salt Ash.

“Once raised, Number 453 Squadron Williamtown Air Traffic Control Flight enlisted the co-operation of the Airlines who operate to and from Williamtown to adopt these procedures.

“The only time pilots do not have to comply is when local weather conditions make this approach unsafe, or other airspace restrictions are in place.

“If civil aircraft need to depart to the north-west (over Medowie and Raymond Terrace) they are required to follow a procedure that mirrors the Air Combat Group fly neighbourly policy which requires aircraft to depart over Grahamstown Dam.

“The other exception is when the Instrument Landing System (ILS) is required and then aircraft will approach over Raymond Terrace.

“Additionally aircraft will have to practice those landing approaches to ensure a safe landing during inclement weather conditions,” Air Commodore Robertson said.

Air Commodore Robertson said the measures had been discussed at the recent Williamtown Advisory Group meeting, and the Salt Ash community meeting and all attendees had been supportive of the trial.

For further information on RAAF Williamtown flying activities, members of the community are encouraged to ring RAAF Base Williamtown 1800 033 200, or log on to the website to receive updates on Hawk/Hornet aircraft diversions – see link <http://www.airforce.gov.au/flyingareawilliamtown>.

Media Contacts:

Ben Wickham

Defence Corporate Communication – NSW

0400 003 792