



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

**Minutes of  
Meeting**

BP25985467

**MINUTES OF THE 47<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE  
WORKING GROUP (ACWG), HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY ON 08 JUN 22**

**Attendees:**

GPCAPT I Carty	Senior ADF Officer	Chairperson
WGCDR P Murray	Air Base Executive Officer	
Mr B Parker	Acting Director Service Delivery - SQ	
Ms C Bischoff	Acting Base Manager	
Hon S Neumann MP	Federal Member for Blair	
Cr K Kunzelmann	Councillor	
Cr R Milligan	Councillor	
Mr R Poli	PFAS Representative	
Mr A Thompson	PFAS Representative	
Mr C Hayes	President Willow Bank Area Residents Group	
Mr G Hatchman	Willowbank Area Residents Group	
Mr T Dawson	DTS Representative	
Ms L Ashton-Stewart	Local Resident	
Mr B Behm	Local Resident	
Mr P Conroy	Local Resident	
Mrs R Conroy	Local Resident	
Mr D Pahlke	Local Resident	
LAC Y Yu	ABCP	Secretary

**Apologies:**

Mayor T Harding  
Mr I Dainer  
Mr E Dawson  
Ms J Goodhew  
Mr J Krause MP

**ITEM 1: OPENING**

1. Chairperson GPCAPT Carty opened the Meeting at 1712.
2. GPCAPT Carty advised the draft of Meeting Minutes should be released within a month for all parties to review.
3. GPCAPT Carty advised the emergency form up points in the event of an emergency.
4. GPCAPT Carty provided a brief update on the recent weather events and stated Amberley has gone through two significant weather events impacting local residents and one instance the closure of Sewage Treatment Plan. On base and local road closures occurred, resulting in temporary base access control changes and options to recover people across the airfield, noting the Cunningham Highway remained open.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES**

5. Mr Parker introduced himself as the substantive Base Manager and acting as the Director of Service Delivery of all the bases in South Queensland.
6. Mr Behm introduced himself as one of the local residents.
7. Mr Conroy introduced himself as one of the local residents.
8. Mrs Conroy introduced herself as one of the local residents.
9. Mr Dawson introduced himself as the Director of Dawson's Technical Services.
10. Mr Hatchman introduced himself as a member of the Willowbank Residents Group.
11. Mr Hayes introduced himself as a local resident and current President of the Willowbank Residents Group.
12. Mr Poli introduced himself as Assistant Director of PFAS remediation, and former Environment Manager for Southeast Queensland.
13. Cr Kunzelmann introduced herself as the Division 4 Councillor of the Ipswich City Council and stated this is her first attendance.
14. Mr Thompson introduced himself as the Project Manager for Queensland PFAS remediation site.
15. Ms Ashton-Stewart introduced herself as one of the local residents.
16. Cr Milligan introduced himself as the Division 4 Councillor of the Ipswich City Council.
17. Mr Pahlke introduced himself as a Rosewood resident for nearly 40 years.
18. Hon Shayne Neumann MP, introduced himself as the Federal member for Blair and representing all areas surrounding RAAF Base Amberley.
19. Ms Bischoff introduced herself as Acting Base Manager and substantive Assistant Base Manager.
20. WGCDR Murray introduced himself as Commanding Officer (CO) of 23 Squadron (23SQN) and Air Base Executive Officer (ABXO) and also introduced LAC Yu, as the meeting secretary.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

21. GPCAPT Carty expressed congratulations to Hon Shayne Neumann MP on his re-election as the Federal Member for Blair.
22. GPCAPT Carty stated the previous minutes were recently recirculated and updated, requesting any discrepancies to be raised. The previous responses for amendment should have been actioned by the group.

- 23. Mr Behm emphasised he required a hard copy of the Meeting Minutes.
- 24. Ms Ashton-Stewart pointed out an incorrect name in Paragraph 39, Tim Dawson should read Tim Wilde, the Program Manager for the new Sewage Treatment Plant.
- 25. Bremner River should read Bremer River.
- 26. Specialized Security should read Specialised Security.
- 27. WGCDR Murray advised minor adjustments will be corrected however the Minutes will not be circulated unless there have been any major changes.

**ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- 28. GPCAPT Carty revised action items from previous Minutes. Mr McLachlan to be given Mr Conroy's number so that he can make contact with Mr Conroy to discuss water supply options. Mr Conroy stated that this did occur.
- 29. WGCDR Murray stated that unless advised otherwise, only electronic copies will be sent and Mr Behm will get a hard copy.
- 30. Ref para 35 of previous Minutes, Mr McLachlan to send Mr Behm the information on water flow around specific sites which was provided to Mr McLachlan and his team. Mr Behm stated he was contacted on two occasions. First time the caller had trouble understanding the situation, next day another caller contacted Mr Behm and understood the situation but nothing was heard since then.
- 31. GPCAPT Carty queried the updated spreadsheet of PFAS information. PFAS team stated that this will be updated when next reporting.
- 32. Ref para 41, to explore the possibility for James to attend in person to the next meeting. GPCAPT Carty mentioned instead of Mr McLachlan, the Queensland team has been represented. Mr Poli stated Mr McLachlan has left the directorate.
- 33. Ref para 48, to provide rough schedule for night works to base neighbours. GPCAPT Carty mentioned base will provide ongoing conversation and updates to the residents. Base will provide notification for those works occurring outside normal base operations. For the larger schedule of works, the Prime Minister announced \$480 million national airbase maintenance works. The base will update the ACWG and provide more details as the maintenance works are confirmed and start dates are known.
- 34. Mr Hatchman asked a question in relation to dual naming consideration. GPCAPT Carty stated that with the new the Federal Government, the likelihood of dual naming being reinstated is more likely.
- 35. GPCAPT Carty explained to Mr Hatchman that his request is based on the Heritage Centre relocation with planning and relocation to be completed around 2025 if endorsed and funded. RAAF Amberley is also considering relocating the Memorial Garden to the new Amberley Heritage Centre preferred site, to enable better family, descendant and public access.

36. GPCAPT Carty mentioned the intent is for dual naming at access gates to the base while recognising history of the base at the heritage precinct.
37. GPCAPT Carty advised that Mr Hatchman's proposal will also be a standalone artefact and separating base history and dual naming on separate plaques will be more acceptable.
38. Mr Parker stated the new Heritage Centre site is proposed but not selected as there are other factors that will be considered.
39. Mr Hatchman expressed his concept to relocate the centre outside of the original front gate and where the school was, GPCAPT Carty acknowledges the concept but emphasised that the public access to the site is the issue. Visitors are unable to enter the base without escorts, which poses a problem.
40. GPCAPT Carty stated the area beyond Ivor Marsden Park and towards Leichardt is preferred as it does create traffic issues on Cunningham Hwy during major open days. There are other considerations supporting the back gate location and it is a conversation between estate planning, estate branch and Ipswich City Council.
41. Mr Behm raised the issue on the barbed wire fence around base perimeter, where the fence was fixed but damaged by kangaroos soon after and has not been maintained since then.

**Action Item:** Ms Corrin Bischoff to raise urgent job with EMOS and survey the site.

#### **ITEM 5: MOVEMENT OF OLD BACK GATE TO VICINITY OF IVOR MARSDEN PARK**

42. GPCAPT Carty discussed the movement of the old back gate to the base side of Ivor Marsden Park near the new ATC complex and stated the road between the new Air Traffic Control Towers to the old back gate does not impact the public if claimed by Defence. The movement of gate would not adversely affect local residents and provides additional security and internal access to the APOD and ATC tower for the base.
43. Mr Parker advised, Defence will initiate an application with Ipswich City Council to agree to cede the land and looking at maximum 400 metres.
44. GPCAPT Carty asked for a point of contact within the council to enable Defence to submit the request. The advice offered was to contact the council Chief Executive Officer who will then disseminate to the appropriate regulatory services.
45. GPCAPT Carty stated access will be provided for maintenance and emphasised the benefit of relocating the back gate, expressing it can also be used in case of emergency.

#### **ITEM 6: DEMOLITIONS PROJECT – REMOVAL OF BUILDINGS ON AP89 – PASCOE'S FARM**

46. Mr Parker advised the commencement of demolition project at Pascoe's farm area in February 2023. Only brick house structures will be retained for training purpose and any building that are beyond economical repair will be removed.

47. GPCAPT Carty expressed the area will be properly maintained once established as a training area.

**ITEM 7: AMBERLEY PFAS INVESTIGATION PROJECT UPDATE**

48. GPCAPT Carty invited representatives to provide information on PFAS investigation and acknowledges certain residents are supportive of human blood testing. GPCAPT Carty explained there has been no change with the Commonwealth decision.

49. Hon Shayne Neumann MP expressed the announcement of independent PFAS review and will be urging Health Minister Mark Butler to consider the idea of voluntary blood testing.

50. Hon Shayne Neumann MP stated Ipswich City council and the Labour Government estimate spending \$4 million dollars towards the Urban River Program to complement the work that has been done and Ipswich City Council is keen to look at the bioscience and PFAS issues.

51. GPCAPT Carty explained to Mr Pahlke that he acknowledges the positive step forward with the change of government and incentive for people to get tested however there has been no change in the current decision.

52. Hon Shayne Neumann MP expressed that he advocates for the new government and relates to three aspects:

- a. First, voluntary blood testing at the wish of the people.
- b. Second, \$4 million dollars towards Urban Rivers Program from the Labour Government in conjunction with Ipswich City Council.
- c. Thirdly, initiate an independent PFAS review from the new government, to complement what Defence is doing and looks at the contaminated land and uses associated with it.

53. Mr Thompson stated the current PFAS project is different to the investigation phase. There are two distinctive programs running. PMAP being the project management area plan and ongoing monitoring program for the continuance of groundwater and surface sediment monitoring.

54. Mr Thompson reiterated that the rate of publishing and producing reports will take longer than investigation phase.

55. Mr Thompson explained that the PMAP investigation phase focuses on STP and the former Fire Training Area. The results from those areas are still pending.

56. Mr Thompson described Mass Flux Study program, and stated consultants have taken water samples from local area which will indicate how much actual PFAS products are going off site and where to, which in turn will enable remediation of the area if required.

57. Mr Thompson described the OMP project and stated the interpretive reports are produced annually. 2020 AIR was released in 2021, and 2021 AIR is still in draft and likely to be published towards the end of 2022.

58. Mr Thompson pointed out the result from draft reports does not show any significant changes and no change to the risk profile from previously indicated reports.

59. Mr Pahlke asked if people could eat the fish from local rivers. GPCAPT Carty clarified the health advice is still in place and has not changed.

60. Mr Thompson provided updates on the remediation plan and explained the Mass flux study has been delayed due to recent flooding. It has been reinstated and will provide results towards end of the year 2022. The remediation action will then be scheduled for March 2023 subject to results provided from Mass Flux Study. A separate remediation action plan will also be developed for the STP area which is part of the decommissioning of the Sewage Treatment Plant and will occur post end of 2024.

61. GPCAPT Carty summarised the issues with PFAS contamination. Noting PFAS does not break down so the situation should not worsen and described the two key sources are the Fire Ground surface runoff and flooded STP which causes contaminants to flush into Warrill creek.

62. GPCAPT Carty articulated that the new STP will be designed to filter PFAS to a safe environmental level and options would be considered under PMAP to minimise the surface runoff from known high contaminated areas.

63. Mr Hayes raised query to PFAS Team - if the flood events affect the data collection parameters does that change the parameters before sampling in the runoff.

64. Mr Thompson explained that they been targeting rainfall events which was part of the plan, to take samples during dry seasons to catch the first flush, also targeting higher rainfall samples to gather a spread of samples across different flow rates. Mr Thompson stated sampling will be placed in water, however access to flooded areas were difficult.

65. Mrs Conroy queried the testing for their water tank. Mr Thompson explained the result were in discussion with the West Moreton Health Department and has not been finalised yet. He would like to reinitiate the conversation and coordinate a meeting with Western Regional Health Department to discuss further.

66. Mr Conroy highlighted the result from previous tests and indicated exceeding human consumption and how PFAS have affected their household. Mr Thompson restated that he will reinvigorate the conversation and get in touch with Mr & Mrs Conroy to discuss further.

67. GPCAPT Carty acknowledges the importance of the issue and articulated Defence wanted to do the right thing from the start and expressed empathy.

#### **ITEM 8: AMBERLEY BASE UPDATES**

68. WGCDR Murray will provide base updates over the next 6 months particularly night flying from Fast Jets. Williamtown assets relocating to Amberley due to runway upgrade.

69. RAAF Base Amberley moving into high exercise period expecting back to back exercises from 10 July - 09 September 2022.

70. WGCdr Murray expressed the base will act in accordance with the normal noise plan and not to expect any significant variances of noise. The noise profiles may be different, however aircraft will not be flying outside the agreed parameters.

71. WGCdr Murray briefly mentioned that the Ipswich Amberley Air Tattoo event will have impact on local residents. WGCdr Murray will inform the residents of any updates or changes that may occur. The RWY upgrade may not occur as planned September 2023 the project may push out to 2024.

72. Mr Parker provided updates on construction activities around the base which may impact on those in the vicinity for neighbours:

- a. Establishment of a new communication squadron building
- b. Major roadworks project across the base including Northern Perimeter Road towards the Old Back Gate. Establishment of brake testing area in the same area, avoiding travelling to Greenbank Training Area
- c. North Airfield Perimeter Fence to be built around northern part of the base.
- d. Co-build potable water supply line with Urban Utilities around the runway.
- e. Sewage Treatment Plant construction in October 2022.
- f. Demolitions works commencing on base February 2023, this will include AP3, offsite Cunningham highway opposite BP station, AP89 Pascoe's Farm.
- g. Tree lopping works near new air traffic control tower may impact on the Conroy family over the next couple of weeks.

73. Mr Parker mentioned activity is underway in relation to estate based planning process for base emerging requirements for the future.

## **ITEM 9: NOISE COMPLAINTS**

74. WGCdr Murray provided feedback on the most recent noise complaints. Notified various complaints from different individuals could be related to the same incident. Noise Complaints will be logged and passed on to flying units for further investigation and will then close the loop with the complainant.

75. WGCdr Murray revealed that there were 58 complaints from 52 different people and pointed out there has been an increase from the previous six months, however there were less complaints in the same comparative period from last year with 72 complaints.

76. Mr Hayes stated post 46<sup>th</sup> ACWG meeting, the Aircraft Noise information was published on the Willowbank Residents local Facebook page with links to Defence Noise management plan, which has helped locals with more understanding to how Defence manages Aircraft Noise. WGCdr Murray appreciated the support from Mr Hayes.

77. WGCdr Murray stated Air Base Command Post is advised to notify nearby local residents on low level pitch activities, particularly for residents that are right on the strip.



GPCAPT Carty emphasised we will continue to educate and disseminate information about changes in noise profiles for special events and any visiting SQNs.

78. Hon Shayne Neumann MP advised most complaints received by him are from the North West side of the base where planes are flying low. GPCAPT Carty explained that is the circuit profile where aircraft are performing turns. Experienced pilots will perform smoothly, while junior pilots require regular thrust adjustments and also weather conditions have an effect on the noise profile as well.

79. GPCAPT Carty received expert advice and suggested there is no real way to change the approved flight path profiles and certain areas will continue to experience aircraft noise.

80. Mr Hatchman put forward the possibility to mitigate aircraft noise with noise attenuation for example structural changes or double glazed windows. GPCAPT Carty explained it is the individuals' responsibility and would be a different approach for Defence to be involved.

81. WGCDR Murray also clarified that the majority of the complaints in regard to air mobility aircraft were associated with conducting night circuits using the short runway 4-22. Most of the fast jet complaints were associated with transition to and from western airspace heading towards Warwick.

82. Mr Hayes raised query whether there will be a temporary review of the aircraft noise affected zones in relation to RAAF Williamtown assets relocating to RAAF Amberley.

**Action Item:** Review and provide temporary guidance and notify residents that are in the constrained area of flight profile and release through ACWG forum for further dissemination.

#### **ITEM 10: OUT OF DATE – TERMS OF REFERENCES**

83. Mr Behm identified shortfalls in relation to Terms of References. Mr Hayes confirmed it was released as an attachment.

84. WGCDR Murray stated the Terms of References was released for feedback as several changes to the base structure and staff has occurred since the original Terms of References.

85. Mr Behm expressed the current Terms of References had incorrect versions, which were discussed during meetings and some terminology used was not fit for purpose anymore.

#### **ITEM 11: ACWG MEMBERS DISCUSSION**

86. GPCAPT Carty stated having a collaborative group like ACWG is far more user friendly, involving federal and state members, council representatives and importantly - local residents who are impacted by base operations.

87. GPCAPT Carty asked if any community groups were missing. Leichhardt, Walloon and Peak Crossing were brought up during the discussion. GPCAPT Carty stated "formed groups representing the community are invited to ACWG Committee meetings".

88. Mr Parker suggested Emergency Services. WGCDR Murray supports the idea and GPCAPT Carty commented although base communicates with emergency services on a



regular basis, inviting Emergency Services representative will provide them with a better understanding of the issues, therefore having the right people raising the right issues.

89. Group discussion on which part of the Council should be invited to ACWG meetings and agreed Division 1 and 4 are the right representatives.

90. Mr Hatchman proposed a community joy flight for enhancing public relations.

**Action Item:** GPCAPT Carty to explore the option for a community flight for members, limited to immediate family.

### **ITEM 12: P0010 PROJECT WORKS**

91. GPCAPT Carty discussed the P0010 Project and stated it will not commence in the near future and will discuss the details in the future.

92. GPCAPT Carty reminded the project there is the potential for night and weekend disruptions, however will communicate closely with local communities on the impact and alternatives.

### **ITEM 13: IPSWICH AMBERLEY AIR TATTOO**

93. GPCAPT Carty described the background of Ipswich Amberley Air Tattoo advising event information has been promulgated on social media. The event is in collaboration with Ipswich City Council taking place on the 29-30 October 2022.

94. GPCAPT Carty stressed Public Tickets are limited to 20,000 per day. There will be other tickets for friends of the base including ACWG Committee members.

95. GPCAPT Carty stated the expectation of 30,000 people on base each day during the weekend. Behms Road gate and main gate will be utilised as public entrance, other gates will be utilised for VIP and employees of the base. The Cunningham highway will remain dual carriageway.

96. Ms Ashton-Stewart expressed appreciation with capped tickets for the event but still has concerns with the traffic around base during the weekend. GPCAPT Carty explained normal traffic flow will exist, the highway and roads will operate as normal with traffic control.

97. WGCDR Murray stressed the event will be problematic, it won't be as bad as last time, WGCDR will stay engaged with local residents.

98. Mr Parker pointed out there will be some noise associated with event preparations during business hours and in the lead up to the approximately two weeks prior and pack up taking approximately one week.

99. GPCAPT Carty mentioned there will be morning and afternoon flyovers at Rosewood, North Ipswich and Springfield Lakes for those without tickets.

100. Mr Hayes suggested that signage be available near Willowbank Raceway for Council to publish event details.

101. GPCAPT Carty stated there are many aspects to expectation management and community engagement. Public Affairs Plan has been reviewed and will liaise with Ipswich City Council.

102. GPCAPT Carty mentioned the event will also provide opportunities for those local communities depending on public donation to have a chance for selling goods and products.

103. GPCAPT Carty stated tickets and pricing will be released formally and more public announcements will follow. Preferred ticketing to other associations will be discussed at senior level and members of ACWG committee will be provided preferred tickets.

#### **ITEM 14: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

104. Mr Behm raised concern that the recent flood events damaged the fencing. The previous work at the old Golf link are ineffective and requested re-work on the drainage and stated the previously installed drains are worsening the problem.

**Action Item:** EMOS to review and conduct walk through to identify the issue.

105. Mr Hatchman mentioned local chemist at Willowbank has RAT Testing Kits available.

106. Mr Hayes raised query in relation to vegetation growth and what is the current fire mitigation plan.

107. Mr Parker stated two prescribed burns with mosaic burning are planned for this year. Dates are to be confirmed and depends on the weather reaching optimal condition. Areas include north of the Cunningham Highway between BP service station and up to the Southern Amberley Drive, internally at Hanson's buffer area. Areas parallel to O'Neill's road are not part of the plan for this year.

108. The group discussed the road upgrade project near front of the base. Part of the planned upgrade is located on Defence property which has been referred to the Estate planning team. The upgrade is claimed to provide better safety, assist traffic flow. Two designs have been released by TMR offering the public to vote for the best option.

109. Hon Shayne Neumann MP emphasised even though the upgrade project is an interim solution, the result will still be much better than the current situation and the previous interim project reviewed back in 2007 for Ipswich had a very positive outcome as well.

110. Ms Ashton-Stewart notified a proposal has been received by council for the development of a service station and fast food outlet off Ipswich Rosewood Road adjacent to O'Neill's Road. SADFO, base executives and the BM may be required to attend meetings in the future.

#### **ITEM 15: CLOSING AND DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING**

111. Cr Kunzelmann expressed appreciation for the invitation.

112. Cr Milligan expressed appreciation for the invitation.

113. Mr Pahlke suggested to have something special for the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting.

114. GPCAPT Carty concluded the meeting at 1907.

**I Carty**  
GPCAPT  
SADFO Base Manager

Oct 22

**C Bischoff**  
Ms  
Acting Base Manager

Oct 22