



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

No 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron

BP30807656

MINUTES OF THE 48th MEETING OF THE AMBERLEY CONSULTATIVE WORKING GROUP (ACWG), HELD AT RAAF BASE AMBERLEY ON 17 NOVEMBER 2022

Attendees:

GPCAPT I Carty	Senior ADF Officer	Chairperson
WGCDR P Murray	Air Base Executive Officer	
Ms C Bischoff	Base Manager	
Cr Russell Milligan	Councillor	
Mr R Poli	PFAS Representative	
Mr S Coleman	PFAS Representative	
Ms C Comber	Project Manager of STP Project	
Mr T Dawson	Local Resident DTS Representative	
Mr C Hayes	Local Resident	
Mr D Pahlke	Local Resident	
Mr G Hatchman	Local Resident	
Mr P Conroy	Local Resident	
Mrs R Conroy	Local Resident	
Mr B Behm	Local Resident	
Miss S Crawford	Admin Officer	Secretary

Apologies:

Mayor T Harding	Ipswich Mayor
Hon S Neumann MP	Federal Member for Blair
Hon J Krause MP	State Member for Scenic Rim
Cr K Kunzelmann	Divisional Councillor
Mr K Pehm	Local Resident
Mrs B Fenner	Local Resident
Hon Jennifer Howard MP	State Member for Ipswich
Mr I Dainer	Vice President – Willowbank Area Group

ITEM 1: OPENING

1. Chairperson GPCAPT Carty opened the Meeting at 1704.
2. GPCAPT Carty stated that it was a busy year particularly with the preparation of the Ipswich Amberley Air Tattoo (IAAT), which was unfortunately cancelled. He advised that this decision was disappointing but the best and safest option at the time considering the weather.
3. GPCAPT Carty advised that we have had various different aircraft deployed to RAAF Base Amberley, including aircraft from USAF and 2OCU. Local residents and the community were notified of increased flying via direct contact and social media announcements.

4. GPCAPT Carty announced that it will be his and WGCDR Murray's last ACWG Meeting. Ms Bischoff has been successful in winning the Base Manager position and will be in attendance at the next ACWG meeting.

5. Mr Behm questioned why the contact for the Base Manager kept changing. GPCAPT Carty explained that telephone system had changed from a landline to a Voice over IP system, therefore the number changed when the position changed. Ms Bischoff advised that she would give Mr Behm her mobile number and the base management team number.

For action: Ms Bischoff to give Mr Behm the base management team number and her work mobile number.

ITEM 2: REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ATTENDEES AND APOLOGIES

6. WGCDR Murray introduced himself as the Commanding Officer (CO) of 23 Squadron (23SQN) and Air Base Executive Officer (ABXO).

7. Mrs Conroy introduced herself as one of the local residents.

8. Mr Conroy introduced himself as one of the local residents.

9. Mr Pahlke introduced himself as a Rosewood resident.

10. Mr Hatchman introduced himself as one of the local residents.

11. Mr Behm introduced himself as a one of the local residents.

12. Mr Hayes introduced himself as one of the local residents and president of the Willowbank Local Resident Group.

13. Mr Dawson introduced himself as one of the local residents.

14. Mr Poli introduced himself as a representative from the PFAS Directorate.

15. Mr Coleman introduced himself as the Project Manager from the PFAS Directorate.

16. Cr Milligan introduced himself as the representative from the Ipswich City Council.

17. Ms Bischoff introduced herself as the Base Manager of RAAF Base Amberley.

18. Ms Comber dialled in to the meeting and introduced herself as the Project Manager of the STP Project.

19. Miss Crawford introduced herself as an Admin Officer and secretary of the meeting.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

20. GPCAPT Carty stated the previous minutes were recently circulated and updated, requesting any discrepancies to be raised.

21. Mr Pahlke requested that Para 59 of previous meeting minutes be changed to state that the answer to his question was no, you are unable to eat the fish.

22. WGCdr Murray advised this change will be corrected by these minutes and a note made on the previous minutes.

ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

23. Mr Pahlke raised the issues of blood testing for local residents again. He stated that it is not an expensive exercise to do testing on residents and would like for the issue to be put forward to local government again. GPCAPT Carty advised that the point has been put forward to local government already and there has been no change.

24. Mr Pahlke emphasised the importance of having support from other local residence and members of local government in pushing this issue. GPCAPT Carty and Cr Milligan stated at the end of the day it is in the hands of the Federal Health Department, and updates will be provided once received.

25. Mr Behm advised that the minutes from last meeting missed a point he raised in reference to the signage displayed during the flood. Mr Behm stated that the signage was only placed on the Leichardt side of Three Mile Bridge during the flood and requested that signage should be displayed on both sides. GPCAPT Carty advised that it will be raised in this meetings minutes and followed up through council.

For action: SADFO to engage Ipswich Council to request signage is placed on both sides of flooded roads.

26. Ref Para 41, Ms Bischoff to raise urgent job with EMOS to survey barbed wire fence around base perimeter after being damaged by kangaroos. Ms Bischoff had been told works had been completed, however Mr Behm advised they still have not.

For action: Ms Bischoff to follow up with EMOS to raise urgent request for repair.

27. Ref Para 82, review and provide temporary guidance and notify residents of low level flying activity. WGCdr Murray reiterated that the Air Base Command Post (ABCP) are to call local residents in the immediate vicinity and notify of low level flying activity.

28. GPCAPT Carty stated that with the change in noise profile from the arrival of the F-35's, an increased number of social media posts have been made to advertise and inform the Ipswich community of expected noise.

29. Ref Para 90, Mr Hatchman proposed a community joy flight for enhancing public relations. GPCAPT Carty stated that unfortunately that has not eventuated, however there is potential for 35SQN to be a community engagement asset and will remain an ongoing opportunity for this flight.

For action: GPCAPT Carty to approach 35SQN for potential dates and times for community joy flight for members.

30. Ref Par 104, EMOS to review and conduct walk through to identify the damage to fencing and drainage after recent flooding. Mr Behm explained the works that took place and which have resulted in ineffective drainage. GPCAPT Carty stated that it was a priority to ensure that drainage works are effective.

For action: Ms Bischoff to follow up with EMOS to ensure works completed effectively.

ITEM 5: AMBERLEY SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

31. Ms Comber apologised for being unable to attend in person and stated that she plans on providing an in person presentation of the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) project in the New Year.

32. Ms Comber stated that works prior to Christmas would commence the start of the construction phase which would result in shade cloth being put up over the existing fencing and the relocation of current stockpiles. Ms Comber stated that the civil work would commence in March, which will mean an increase in machinery and noise around base. Ms Comber assured this noise will be kept to a minimum and works will only be completed during base hours.

33. Mr Hayes asked whether there will be an increase in trucks transporting raw materials and what entries to the base will be affected, in order to make the community aware. GPCAPT Carty advised that most of the works will affect the Amberley intersection due to the location of the STP, however there will be minimal impact due to being one of the only projects happening during this time.

ITEM 6: AMBERLEY PFAS INVESTIGATION PROJECT UPDATE

34. Mr Coleman stated he would be providing a quick overview of the program to ensure everyone was up to date. Mr Coleman advised that there are five key actions for the site that is covered under the PFAS Management Action Plan. The first being to restrict surface runoff and infiltration of PFAS through storm water, which aims to prevent PFAS from entering into the Bremer River and Warrill Creek. Secondly, to restrict the infiltration of PFAS into the sewerage network which aims to stop it getting into Warrill Creek via the STP. Thirdly, to reduce the mass flux that's out of the former topside firefighting area. Mr Coleman explained that the fourth action was focused on assessment of the infrastructure for the AFFF tank. Lastly, to prevent the mass flux moving from the old fire station location. Mr Coleman stated that overall the aim of the project is trying to work on site investigations to stop the movement of PFAS from the site.

35. Mr Coleman stated that once remediation is complete, the Ongoing Monitoring Program (OMP) will provide progressive testing and updates of the status of the site.

36. Mr Coleman explained that Remediation Action Plan Development is going to occur early in the New Year with remediation to happen towards the end of next year. Mr Coleman advised that they are looking at timing their remediation works concurrently with the STP coming online. He stated that this will minimise soil movements and avoid having an increasing number of trucks on roads, reducing dust problems.

37. Mr Conroy asked if the testing being done was only being conducted on defence property or neighbouring properties as well. Mr Coleman stated that testing was currently being conducted on the 9 critical sites however after consultations with the Queensland Government further testing may be carried out further down the track.

ITEM 7: AMBERLEY BASE UPDATE – CO 23SQN

38. WGCDR Murray stated that over the past 6 months the base has had various aircraft visiting. He noted we have supported some heavy lift aircraft during Exercise Pitch Black, which came from France and Korea.

39. WGCDR Murray reiterated that over the next 6 months we will be accommodating aircraft from 2OCU as a result of runway works being undertaken in RAAF Base Williamtown.

40. WGCDR Murray advised that there would be many infrastructure projects happening around the base including the STP and a new headquarters building being built for the communication squadron on base.

41. GPCAPT Carty advised that the roadworks around the base should be fully complete by Christmas period.

42. GPCAPT Carty advised that from the period of 23 December 2022 to 05 January 2023, access on and off base will be limited to the main gate on Southern Amberley Road due to the reduced activity period, residents to be mindful.

ITEM 8: NOISE COMPLAINTS

43. WGCDR Murray provided feedback on the most recent noise complaints. It was noted that it was no surprised there had been an increase in the number of complaints since the last meeting due to large number of visiting aircraft and increased flying during these periods.

44. WGCDR Murray stated that the noise complaints are taken seriously and that they are logged and passed on to the flying units for further investigation prior to closing the loop with the complainant.

45. GPCAPT Carty said that it is an overall positive result from the group of residents. GPCAPT Carty stated that the Hon Shane Neumann has taken a message to the Deputy Prime Minister regarding the noise to problematic residential areas and it will be up to government if they want to fund a mediation to the problem.

ITEM 9: PM0010 PROJECT WORKS

46. WGCDR Murray stated that these works are all scheduled for around Quarter 3 2023, therefore all attendees will be provided with a good update at the next ACWG Meeting prior to the works commencing.

ITEM 10: OFFICIAL NAMING / DEDICATION FUNCTION FOR THE WILLOWBANK AND ROSEWOOD PLANES

47. GPCAPT Carty advised that he was unsure if the mentioned names had been approved for the aircraft yet, however should there be an official naming function held then all members of the ACWG would be invited to attend.

48. Mr Pahlke said that he had been advised by Hon S Neumann MP that the names had been approved and he had in fact been sent a photograph of the name on the tail of the KC30 aircraft.

49. GPCAPT Carty stated that there may have been some miscommunication between 33SQN and that there may be plans in works for this ceremony to come.

50. WGCDR Murray stated that he will investigate this further. Mr Pahlke requested this be added to next meeting's agenda.

For action: WGCDR Murray to get in touch with 33SQN in relation to the naming ceremony for Willowbank and Rosewood planes.

ITEM 11: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND GENERAL BUSINESS

51. Mr Hayes stated that the communication that had been coming through regarding low flying and other upcoming events had worked really well and there had been plenty of thankful members appreciating the overall communication process to the broader community.

52. GPCAPT Carty asked Mr Hayes how he managed to get on with the fireweed issues. Mr Hayes replied that he had received an email reply and that they had begun the process of spraying to attempt to eliminate the weed.

53. Mr Behms stated that some time ago he had put a request through Hon S Neumann's office looking for information on the zoning around the base and the restrictions that are in place for the neighbouring properties. These restrictions state the limitations on what neighbouring properties can build and grow on their land. Mr Behms stated that he is chasing these restrictions in order to get his land correctly valued as the council has been using different valuations on his rates notice.

54. GPCAPT Carty advised that this would be something best suited for Cr Milligan to look into.

For action: Cr Milligan to look into this and provide clarification. WGCDR Murray and Ms Bischoff to investigate through SEG any known restrictions.

55. Mr Hatchman asked whether the IAAT had been cancelled for good or whether it will be rescheduled for a future date. GPCAPT Carty responded that this event had been cancelled and was not planned to be rescheduled, however he could not comment if the Chief of Air Force would decide to attempt it again in the future. GPCAPT Carty advised that it was highly impractical to hold such event at such a large operational base, however we do intend on providing support to Planes, Trains and Automobiles in Ipswich and the River fire event held in Brisbane.

56. Mr Hatchman said he received an email from Rosemary Thomas asking whether the water tanks on the neighbouring properties have been tested. Mr Hatchman advised that both his and Mr Behms' tanks had been tested over 12 years ago however not in recent times. GPCAPT Carty explained that he was confident that our federal member had chased that up and had gone to a different organisation for more professionalised advice on mentioned testing. GPCAPT Carty advised that any further questions should be directed to Hon S Neumann for further clarification.

57. Mr Conroy asked if there had been any update on the Cunningham Hwy upgrade since the community consultation. GPCAPT Carty stated that he hadn't heard anything since the community consultation closed and that council were not fully engaged due to it being a

State Government decision, however the timeline at that stage was not intended to be prior to 2025.

58. Mr Hayes asked in reference to previous discussions pertaining to building limitations and noise affecting future housing estates out towards Walloon. GPCAPT Carty stated he would like to hope that there is enough evidence to indicate that there is a major operational air base here and that future zone planning for residential estates would take this into consideration.

59. Mr Hayes stated the he had spoken to Canberra Estate planning in regards to the refuse proposal having not received any response from RAAF Amberley. GPCAPT Carty explained that the prosperous waste would be less than 10% therefore would not provide any hazard to the airbase.

ITEM 12: CLOSING AND DETAILS OF NEXT MEETING

60. Mr Behms wished GPCAPT Carty all the best with his future and thanked him for his commitments throughout the ACWG meetings.

61. GPCAPT Carty expressed his thanks and appreciation to the group and stated it has been good to reinvigorate the ACWG meeting. The details for the next meeting are yet to be confirmed.

62. GPCAPT Carty concluded the meeting at 1935h.

P J Murray
GPCAPT
Air Base Executive Officer (outgoing)

C Bischoff
Ms
Base Manager

01 Mar 23

Mar 23