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| Intended release date | For release NLT 23 August 23 |
| Distribution | Mid-North Coast NSW |
| Background | Prior to scheduled operations *Community engagement has been conducted prior to this MR being issued.* |
| Approved Spokesperson | Air Commodore Peter Robinson, Commander Air Combat Group *Wing Commander Phil Eldridge – Commanding Officer 2OCU*  *Wing Commander Richard Drum – Executive Officer 82Wing* |
| Social media | *Social Media:*  ***Scheduled post: NLT 25 August 23***  ***Fast jets return for vital training over Evans Head Air Weapons Range***  *F/A-18F Super Hornet and F-35A Lightning II aircraft scheduled training at Evans Head Air Weapons Range includes: -*   * *1SQN Training Flight – 28 Aug – 01 Sep* * *2OCU – Thu 14 Sep only* * *2OCU – Wed 18 Oct with Thu backup* * *2OCU – Thu 02 Nov* * *1SQN Training Flight – 23 Oct – 10 Nov 23*   *Thanks to the Evans Head community for their ongoing support of this training.* |

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*NLT 23 August 2023*

## MEDIA RELEASE

AIR FORCE FAST JET TRAINING AT EVANS HEAD AIR WEAPONS Range— AUGUST TO NOVEMBER 2023

The Royal Australian Air Force has finalised its Evans Head Air Weapons Range (EVDAWR) training program. EVDAWR is located south of the Evans Head township on the north coast of New South Wales.

Air Force operates F/A-18F Super Hornets from RAAF Base Amberley and F-35A Lightning II aircraft from RAAF Base Williamtown into EVDAWR.

Number 1 Squadron Training Flight has finalised the EVDAWR F/A-18F training program for August to November this year. Residents are advised that Super Hornets will operate on the range from 28 August to 1 September and, 23 October to 10 November.

Number 2 Operational Conversion Unit’s F-35A Lightning II training program will visit the range on 14 September and 18 October, with backup days being 19 October and 2 November 2023.

Commander of Air Combat Group, Air Commodore Peter Robinson said EVDAWR is highly suited as a gunnery and bombing practice area for aircrew completing their operational conversion to F-35A Lightning II and F/A-18F Super Hornet aircraft.

Fast jet military aircraft will conduct low-level flying, gunnery and bombing training during each mission within the range airspace,’’ AIRCDRE Robinson said.

AIRCDRE Robinson said training activities could involve up to two waves per day of application pattern and live strafe, and can involve the use of lasers.

“Local residents are advised that access to the range (land areas) remains restricted regardless of any activities being conducted. This is due to the historical use of range and the possibility of unexploded ordnance remaining at the site,” he said.

For safety reasons, the Southern DPA (overwater) will be closed from 10am to 5pm during all operations, except where specifically indicated.

“Residents are advised training on the range can change due to weather or other considerations,” he said.

Air Force appreciates the ongoing input and long standing support the local community provides in terms of our operations,’’ AIRCDRE Robinson said.

The Evans Head Evans Head Air Weapons Range Community Advisory Panel has been advised of these activities.

“Defence personnel display Red Flags whenever live firing activities are conducted and carry out patrols to ensure people don’t stray into the area,” he said.

For further information please refer to the Air Force Operations website on <https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity>. A copy of the overwater DPA map and GPS co-ordinates please refer to the Defence website at <http://www.defence.gov.au/aircraftnoise>; and go to Ops Near MeEvans Head tab.

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| **Drafted** | **Name** | **Appointment** | **Date and time** |
| ***MR drafted by*** | *J. Payne* | *Strat Coms* | *4 July 23* |
| **Clearance** | **Name** | **Appointment** | **Date and time** |
|  | WGCDR Phil Eldridge  SQNLDR Justin Baldry | *CO 2OCU*  82WG STANDO | 10Jul23; 0945hrs  10Jul23; 1317hrs |
| ***Cleared by: (Group/Service)*** | GPCAPT Peter Davies | *A/CDR ACG* | 02 1342L AUG 23 |
| ***Cleared by MECC Embedded Communications Director/Strategic Communications Advisor (see note above)*** |  |  |  |
| ***Cleared by: Defence Media*** |  |  |  |
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