

WILLIAMTOWN CONSULTATIVE FORUM
8 October 2010, 1000 to 1200
NEWCASTLE AIRPORT BOARDROOM

Welcome and Apologies

1. Mr John Owens, Head Infrastructure, Department of Defence, opened the meeting at 10:07 am. He thanked Mr Hughes of NAL for his hospitality, and welcomed the new Mayor of Port Stephens, Cr Bob Westbury.
2. An apology was received from Ms Jennifer Collison from the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. Mr Rod Chenhall attended in Ms Collison's stead.

Minutes from WCF meeting held on 5 March 2010

3. The Member for Paterson, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, raised concerns regarding the minutes of the previous meeting and sought clarification on a number of issues. These included:
 1. Who is responsible for the release of the Australian Noise Exposure Concept (ANEC) is it Minister Smith or Senator Feeney?
 2. Why, if the ANEC does not replace the Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF), and if the ANEC is being used by Council, does Defence not withdraw ANEF 2025?
 3. Why the various options, such as the runway extension and location of the instrument approach were not considered prior to issuing the ANEF 2025 in October 2009?
 4. Will there be greater consultation before the promulgation of the next ANEF?
4. Mr Baldwin advised that he is opposed to the Kings Hill development. He noted that the Department of Defence was also opposed to development. Mr Baldwin expressed concern that should the Kings Hill development proceed, it would hamper efforts to mitigate noise over west Medowie as aircraft approaching from the north-west on final approach to RAAF Williamtown would have to avoid Kings Hill thus impacting existing residents. Mr Baldwin further advised that he believed the Kings Hill development had the potential to stifle future development of the RAAF base as new generation military aircraft became available.
5. Mr Baldwin also suggested that while officials in Canberra make decisions, it was the uniformed personnel at the base who bear the brunt of the consequences of those decisions.
6. Mr Owens advised that an ANEC is a concept that considers various operations/scenarios and provides an understanding of the operation of aircraft and new aircraft capability based on an understanding of flight operations, runway configurations and navigational instruments that are known at a given time. Mr Owens acknowledged the need for Defence to consult early and share any information it might have. Mr Owens advised that Defence would continue to be open and honest in its information sharing, as it continues to learn more about the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), and Defence will continue to look for ways to minimise noise impacts, particularly on existing urban areas.
7. Mr Owens rejected the suggestion that there is a division between the operational and strategic areas of Defence or between the uniformed and civilian elements. Mr Owens noted that

Mr Baldwin thought that both the promulgation of the ANEF in October 2009 and consideration of various scenarios were not dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

8. Mr Baldwin suggested that the NSW Government should consider a State Environmental Planning Policy on aircraft noise as a means of controlling development around the Base.

9. Ms Sharon Grierson MP flagged that she would need to leave early, and wanted to ensure her concerns were raised to the Forum. She asked that the following be addressed through the course of the meeting:

- a. information regarding any further allegations of incorrect flight tracks;
- b. selection process of preferred runway extension option;
- c. a map showing affected properties from Port Stephens Council, consistent with any changes to the consultation process;
- d. the implications of the approval of the Kings Hill development by the NSW Government;
- e. the public relations strategy for improving community support for base, highlighting its benefits to all; and
- f. industry interest in the proposed aerospace park adjacent to RAAF Base Williamstown.

10. Ms Grierson also added that the NSW Premier was seeking an update regarding Aerospace Industry Summit and Forum.

11. Mr David Broyd suggested that the Department of Defence discuss the planning implications of the revised ANEC mapping with Council prior to their publication. This was agreed to by representatives of the Department of Defence and the RAAF.

12. Mr Broyd also requested that Defence provide written advice regarding the ANEC at Salt Ash to assist Council in making land use planning decisions.

13. Mr Broyd also advised that he had prepared a report to Council suggesting that Council not apply AS 2021 in areas under the ANEC.

Actions Items from last Meeting

14. Mr Owens reported on the following action items:

Revision of flight paths around Oyster Cove and Tanilba Bay

15. Since the last meeting of the WCF, the New Air Combat Capability (NACC) team within Defence had produced an ANEC which substantially reduced the use of the Salt Ash Air Weapons Range (SAAWR) by the JSF, returning the noise exposure contours to a similar coverage as those contained in the former 2012 ANEF. Oyster Cove and Tanilba Bay now fall outside the 20 noise exposure contour.

Acquisition of land around Oyster Bay

16. Mr Owens indicated that this matter is largely dealt with by the revision of the noise exposure contours around SAAWR.

Brief on RAAF Williamtown Stage 2 Redevelopment Project

17. Mr Owens told the forum that the Redevelopment Stage 2 Project for the base comprises an engineering services upgrade, a new air traffic control tower and refurbished complex, a new admin building for 800 personnel, car park facility for 600 vehicles, facilities to accommodate 6 aircraft for 4 SQN and relocation of the front gate to the northern end of the base. The total value of the works is approximately \$230 million, with construction projected to commence in mid 2012.

18. Mr Owens also offered to provide further detail to Forum members if required.

Raising the profile of the positive economic aspects of RAAF Williamtown

19. Mr Owens advised that Defence is working to positively promote RAAF Base Williamtown. A brochure which highlights the economic benefit the Base brings to the region was produced for the recent air show, held on 18-19 September 2010. Ten thousand copies were produced and six thousand were distributed to people attending the air show at the main ticketing gates, information booths and unit displays. The remainder were to be given to the Port Stephens and Newcastle Councils, and the office of Bob Baldwin MP. The Base will have some available for future use.

20. Cr John Tate said that he supported the Aerospace Industry Summit and Forum.

21. WGCDR Glen Johnson noted that the brochure provided a good news story regarding the economic benefits of the base to the local community, and asked if updated economic figures could be used.

22. Mr John Kerwan advised that the economic impact information would be revised and updated when redevelopment works are undertaken and relevant economic data is available.

Update from Defence's New Air Combat Capability Project Team.

23. AIRCDRE Roy McPhail provided a presentation to WCF members on the NACC project, including an update on the Supplementary Report to the Public Environment Report. (A copy of this presentation is attached).

24. Mr Peter Gesling requested that Port Stephens Council be consulted on the process with regard to the PER supplementary report and subsequent ANEC, and notified/briefed prior to the release of final versions as they will need to field queries from the public. Mr Owens agreed that Defence would work with Port Stephens Council to achieve this.

25. Mr Baldwin again raised his concern that the ANEF 2025 is still in place over properties, particularly in the vicinity of Raymond Terrace.

26. Mr Owens stated that the new ANEC provides an understanding of the future noise exposure forecast for new capability at a given time and that it is anticipated that the new ANEF is likely to be released by the end of the year, consistent with the Government's election promise.

27. Mr Craig Baumann suggested that the noise impact is a planning issue and considers that the GBAS (Ground Based Augmentation System – a navigational aid incorporating GPS) and various land use scenarios including defence flying operations need to be considered.

28. Mr Broyd suggested that the ANEF methodology should be reviewed and sought clarification as to whether the ANEC for Salt Ash should be adopted by Council, but noted that this was not the subject of a formal Council resolution.

29. Mr Owens acknowledged the shortcomings of the ANEF system when used in relation to military aircraft operations.

30. Mr Kerwan also noted that the Commonwealth Government, through the National Aerodrome Safeguarding Advisory Group (NASAG), is looking at ways to supplement the ANEF through alternative noise metrics. Mr Peter Gesling suggested that local government was not party to these discussions, but should be consulted in any review of the ANEF system. Mr Kerwan advised that the Australian Local Government Association is represented on the NASAG.

31. Cr Tate noted the importance of communicating with the local community and suggested that educating the community about the difference and impact of an ANEF and ANEC. Cr Bob Westbury also noted that a brochure is an effective way of getting the message across.

32. Mr Owens took an action item to produce an information brochure on the differences between an ANEF and ANEC in consultation with Port Stephens Council (**Action Item**).

33. AIRCDRE Mel Hupfeld asked to revisit the matter of the GBAS, and suggested that it does not provide a simple solution. There are significant safety, technological and airworthiness requirements that need to be overcome before a GBAS could be implemented for fast jet aircraft, and it is a case where the expense to achieve a small change in the ANEF may outweigh the benefits. AIRCDRE Hupfeld offered committee members a ride in the simulator in order to demonstrate the complexities of landing a high performance military aircraft in instrument approach conditions.

RAAF update on RAAF Base Williamtown matters.

34. WGCDR Glen Johnson gave an update on matters relating to RAAF Base Williamtown. He advised that the base has recently engaged broadly with the community in key events including ANZAC Day, Battle of Britain and Battle of Australia commemorative days.

35. WGCDR Johnson reported that the Williamtown Airshow had been extremely successful and thanked PSC and Newcastle Council for their support and assistance in working with the Base on transport and logistics issues associated with the event. There had been no significant issues other than minor noise complaints from individuals who had not been properly notified.

36. WGCDR Johnson reported that the Aerospace Industry Summit and Forum held in conjunction with the air show was also successful and there were suggestions that an annual event occur. AIRCDRE Hupfeld suggested that a cost effective strategic approach to managing future events is needed, an annual industry summit is viable provided that hosting the event be shared between the Base, Port Stephens Council and Newcastle Council, with RAAF support. It is most likely that an Air Force supported Air Show could occur around every 4 to 5 years.

37. Mr Gesling advised that PSC is undertaking an economic impact analysis of the Air Show.

Port Stephens Council Update

38. Mr Broyd provided a handout to members with a summary of Council's Aircraft Noise Policy. Council is establishing a reference group to review the draft noise policy document, which was based on ANEF 2025. Representation will include Defence, the Department of Planning, and community interest groups (SAFE EARS, Medowie East and Medowie West). Mr Baldwin suggested that the proposed community group should include other relevant noise affected areas, particularly those based around Raymond Terrace.

39. Mr Owens indicated that it may not be appropriate for Defence to be a member of the reference group if its aim is to lobby Government. Any proposed representation from Defence would be reviewed in light of the Group's Terms of Reference.

40. Mr Broyd noted that there is a credibility issue for Council regarding the use of the ANEF or ANEC particularly for the Kings Hill rezoning. Port Stephens Council is seeking a meeting with the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary regarding the ANEF.

41. Mr Gesling raised concerns regarding drainage around the base, and would like to bring all parties together to analyse what needs to be done to remedy easement issues. Mr Owens reported that Defence is prepared to be involved and acknowledged in principle the need for Defence to bear a proportional cost, commensurate with the level of Defence's contribution to the problem.

NSW Premier's Department Update

42. Mr Rod Chenhall of the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet added his congratulations for the success of the recent air show.

43. Mr Chenhall mentioned that the issue of drainage around the base is currently being considered by the NSW Office of Water.

44. Mr Chenhall added that the rezoning of the Kings Hill site is currently being finalised by the NSW Department of Planning, and that the site is likely to be rezoned. Mr Owens reiterated Defence's position that it does not support the proposed rezoning of the Kings Hill area for residential purposes.

NAL Update

45. Mr Paul Hughes added his accolades for the success of the recent air show.

46. Mr Hughes advised that NAL had experienced significant economic growth since June.

47. Mr Hughes advised that NAL had provided input to the Aviation White Paper, but added that NAL was not looking to be Sydney's second airport.

48. Mr Hughes added that NAL had been undertaking an exercise of separating civil movements from military to gain an understanding of the contribution of civil movements to the ANEF, to demonstrate how the economic growth of the airport is factored into the input data for the ANEF model. He added that further clarification was needed and that NAL would continue to engage with Defence.

Other Business

49. There was no other business.

Next Meeting.

50. Mr Owens proposed that the next meeting be hosted by Defence at RAAF Base Williamtown in April 2011.

51. The meeting closed at 11:50 am.

WILLIAMTOWN CONSULTATIVE FORUM**DATE: Friday 8 October 2010****ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	TITLE AND ORGANISATION
<u>Members</u>	
BALDWIN MP, Bob	Federal Member for Paterson
BAUMANN MP, Craig	NSW Member for Port Stephens
CHENHALL, Rod	Assistant Regional Coordinator Hunter Region, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet
GRIERSON MP, Sharon	Federal Member for Newcastle
GESLING, Peter	General Manager, Port Stephens Council
HUGHES, Paul	CEO, Newcastle Airport Limited
HUPFELD, Mel	Air Commodore, Air Combat Group, Defence
JOHNSON, Glen	Wing Commander, Base Executive Officer RAAF Williamtown, Defence
OWENS, John	Head Infrastructure, Defence (Chair)
TATE, John	Lord Mayor, Newcastle City
WESTBURY, Bob	Mayor, Port Stephens
<u>Other Attendees</u>	
BROYD, David	Manager Sustainable Planning, Port Stephens
DOPSON, Matt	Assistant Director Land Planning & Spatial Information, Defence
HOGAN, Tim	Assistant Director Land Planning & Spatial Information, Defence
HORN, Helen	Senior Environmental Manager Williamtown, Defence
KERWAN, John	Director Land Planning & Spatial Information, Defence
MANGION, Charles	Base Support Manager RAAF Base Williamtown, Defence
MCPHAIL, Roy	Air Commodore, Director Acquisition New Air Combat Capability, Defence
OLSEN, Adam	Senior Constituent Advisor to Bob Baldwin MP
PONTON, Jim	Executive Officer Land Planning, Defence