

Minutes of the Williamtown Consultative Forum (WCF)
Friday 5 March 2010, 1005-1145
Lord Mayor's Reception Room, Newcastle City Hall

Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies.

1. Mr John Owens, Head Infrastructure, Department of Defence (Defence) and Chair of the WCF opened the meeting at 1005. Mr Owens welcomed all members to the meeting and Mr Owens thanked Newcastle City for their hospitality. Attendees are listed at Attachment A.
2. Mr Owens advised that apologies were received from, Mr Peter Gesling, General Manager Port Stephens Council (who would be represented by Mr Wayne Wallis), and Mr John Kerwan, Director Land Planning and Spatial Information, Department of Defence. Ms Bernice Derriman expressed the apologies of Mr Craig Baumann MP, Member for Port Stephens, and indicated that she would act as his representative.

Item 2 - Minutes from the last WCF held on 2 October 2009.

3. Mr Owens asked members if the minutes from the previous forum meeting were accepted. It was moved and carried that the minutes be accepted without amendment.

Item 3 – Action Items from the last meeting of the WCF.

a. Review of PER consultation.

4. Mr Owens advised this action item was addressed in a presentation the subject of agenda item 4.

b. Open days for RAAF WLM.

5. WGCdr Glen Johnson advised that there will be an open day at Williamtown, planned for the weekend of 18 & 19 September 2010. It will include an airshow, and 40-45,000 people are expected to attend. It will be the first open day / air show at WLM since 1996.

c. Response to letter from Mr Jelfs, tabled by the Mayor of Port of Port Stephens, regarding evidence of aircraft flying on incorrect flight tracks at Salt Ash.

6. The issue was discussed and GPCAPT Smith explained that they had no evidence to support the contention that aircraft use incorrect flight tracks around Salt Ash Air Weapons Range (SAWR). GPCAPT Smith also noted that Air Force would be happy to address any more specific allegations of incorrect flight tracks as they arise.

d. Sale of Sellick Property.

7. Mr Owens advised that Defence had purchased the Sellick property. The Mayor of Port Stephens, Cr Bruce MacKenzie, congratulated Defence on the expeditious handling of the matter since the last WCF.

Item 4 - Update from Defence's New Air Combat Capability Project Team on the Public Environment Report for JSF.

8. GPCAPT Wheaton advised that in respect to project delivery, since the last meeting the most significant progress was the 2nd pass approval by Government to acquire the first

batch of 14 aircraft. This is a significant milestone in Defence's procurement processes as it means that funding to purchase the aircraft is approved.

9. With regard to the environmental aspects of the project, GPCAPT Wheaton advised that the new ANEF Map for WLM is based on the best available data / information and included Defence's planned rate of effort as well as forecast civilian growth at Newcastle Airport.
10. The Member for Paterson, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, queried the expansion of the ANEF contours over Oyster Cove and Tanilba Bay, areas which have not previously been covered by any ANEF. Mr Owens advised that Defence will take an action to investigate and see if Air Force could revise the flight paths. PSC would provide details of the property zonings in these areas (**Action item**).

UPDATE: Defence has conducted a review into the way SAWR will be used by the JSF, resulting in a significant reduction in noise contours around the SAWR. A new noise map that reflect these changes, which will eventually amend the existing 2025 ANEF, was released to the public on 17 May 2010.

Defence is currently undertaking a feasibility study to assess the viability of reconfiguring the main runway at RAAF Base Williamtown. Options being considered include an extension to the south-east. While the study has been focussed on determining benefits to JSF flying safety, it will also determine what impact any runway extension would have on the noise contours shown on the 2025 ANEF map. To produce an accurate noise forecast for a revised runway configuration, detailed adjustments need to be made to a large number of flight profiles, and this will be undertaken by Defence when a preferred runway extension option is selected later this year.

Defence is also investigating the feasibility of reconfiguring the instrument approach systems in use at RAAF Base Williamtown. The extent to which this may affect the 2025 ANEF noise forecast will be investigated and discussed with representatives from Port Stephens Council when the results of the analysis are known.

11. PSC advised it will use a composite map of the former 2012 ANEF and the new 2025 ANEF maps to manage transitional issues [the gradual phasing out of the F/A-18 Hornet and phasing in of JSF] in parts of the local government area where the ANEF is contracting, particularly around Salt Ash. The JSF is not anticipated to use the nearby SAWR as frequently as the F/A-18 Hornet currently does. Defence advised that it is providing the data for the map but stressed to the members that the map does not replace the 2025 ANEF, which remains the primary document for PSC to use in its development assessment purposes.
12. The issue of Defence compensating landowners newly affected by the 2025 ANEF was discussed. Whilst the ANEF is only a forecast it was acknowledged that PSC is using the ANEF to make decisions now. Mr Owens advised that compensation is an issue for Government as a whole and that no decision had been made. Any decision would be a matter for Ministers.
13. The Member for Paterson suggested Defence acquire land at Oyster Cove on a voluntary basis, citing some 35 properties that were not zoned for residential purposes and that acquisition would stop speculation on land and rezoning from occurring in inappropriate areas. Mr Owens took an action item to investigate the issue of property acquisition but in

doing so, noted that it would be a difficult task. Defence has bought land in the past but not large areas of buffer land that was not contiguous to the base (**Action item**).

14. Cr MacKenzie stated that people do not want compensation, rather they want more engagement about the ANEF. He also contended that it is the local base personnel who attract the criticism, and that further engagement should be from Defence representatives / Ministers, based in Canberra. GPCAPT Wheaton noted that nine public meetings were held during the consultation period for the draft Public Environment Report. GPCAPT Grady advised that Defence is prepared to look more critically at the future use of SAWR.
15. Mr David Broyd called for a joint policy position in relation to the assessment of development applications affected by the new ANEF. Mr Owens advised that is not something Defence is comfortable with, citing issues of constitutional /statutory separation of powers between Federal and State. Defence has been working with PSC in relation to the new ANEF but PSC is the consent authority for development. Mr Broyd advised he is seeking a formalised consistent approach. Cr MacKenzie requested a high level meeting with the Minister for Defence. Mr Owens offered to assist to bring about a meeting but noted that it would be a decision for the Minister at the end of the day. Mr Owens noted that Defence would continue to engage with PSC at the working level.

UPDATE: The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, met with Port Stephens councillors, including Cr MacKenzie on 8 June 2010.

16. The Member for Newcastle suggested all areas newly affected by the 2025 ANEF be tabled at the next meeting. The Member for Paterson suggested public representation at the WCF. Mr Owens noted the current terms of reference for the WCF preclude members of the public attending. Mr Owens noted that a separate public meeting could be considered and that there are other mechanisms to consult with the public such as the PER processes.
17. GPCAPT Wheaton outlined the number of submissions received during the PER and the scope of the issues they raised. A supplementary PER report addressing the submissions will be released by the end of the month.
18. Cr MacKenzie stated that the time periods for the manning of stalls during the PER were not long enough or appropriate in terms of maximising exposure. He suggested an evening meeting would be more appropriate.
19. GPCAPT Wheaton responded by saying that there are a number of lessons learned from the PER process and that a lot of very useful information was gathered and this will be used in the formal EIS process to be conducted later this year.
20. Cr MacKenzie asked why the JSF contours have to be released now. GPCAPT Wheaton and Mr Owens both advised that Defence is obligated to include all planned aircraft movements including civil movements in any revision to an ANEF. Cr MacKenzie suggested that Defence include a special meeting to address his council during the EIS process. GPCAPT Wheaton advised that public consultation for the EIS is currently programmed to occur in the first quarter of 2011.
21. The Member for Paterson suggested that a copy of GPCAPT Wheaton's presentation be tabled at the meeting. It was advised that a copy of the presentation will be attached to the draft meeting minutes.
22. GPCAPT Wheaton briefly referred to the opportunities for industry in relation to the Joint Strike Fighter project. The exact extent is still difficult to define at this stage given where

the project is up to in the US and requirements are still being determined. Mayor MacKenzie stated he is supportive of the economic benefits RAAF WLM brings to Port Stephens. The Member for Patterson asked whether the engine type for the JSF has been finalised. Both GPCAPT Smith and GPCAPT Grady advised that it had not yet been finalised.

Item 5 - RAAF Update on RAAF Base Williamtown matters.

23. WGCDR Johnson gave an update on matters relating to RAAF Base Williamtown – The base is providing support to current Defence operations overseas. An infrastructure project known as Stage 2 Redevelopment is to occur in addition to the JSF Facilities project. Ms Collison asked about the value of the works. Mr Owens took an action item to provide a more detailed brief on the Stage 2 Redevelopment Project (**Action item**).
24. The Member for Paterson asked if the Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) Wedgetail aircraft were included in the new ANEF. Defence advised that they were.
25. In relation to the planned open days in September, WGCDR Johnson requested support and assistance with things such as traffic management etc. Cr MacKenzie gave his full support.
26. It was advised that a forthcoming Ordnance Loading Exercise may impact Newcastle Airports civil operations. WGCDR Johnson would discuss this further with NAL.
27. The base is holding a base birthday function on 31 March.
28. The Member for Newcastle passed on her congratulations to the base on a job well done in relation to the recent Welcome Home Festival.

Item 6 - Port Stephens Council Update.

29. Mr Broyd said the Council is working on amending its Aircraft Noise Development Control Plan and will include a period of public exhibition in April / May. Mr Broyd acknowledged that recent workshops between PSC staff and Defence representatives have been appreciated. PSC is to write to residents affected by the new ANEF.
30. Kingshill rezoning is likely to be approved, in accordance with AS 2021.
31. The DAREZ development application has stalled subject to the resolution of a number of drainage issues at the site.
32. The Member for Paterson left the meeting at 11.30am. Mr Owens thanked him for his attendance.

Item 7 - Newcastle City Council Update.

33. NCC is looking to broaden the potential for investment in NAL to the wider Hunter Region. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Cr John Tate indicated that NCC is supportive of the economic contribution of the base, however acknowledges the issues associated with noise are more prevalent in PSC. Cr Mackenzie noted that it is the local base personnel who attract the criticism from the local community.
34. Cr Tate suggested that there is a need to lift the profile of the positive features, such as the economic aspects, of the base. Mr Owens took an action item to look at options to better engage on these aspects. The open days are a good example. Presentations to industry, such as trade shows and tertiary education would be possible options (**Action item**).

Item 8 - NSW Premiers Department Update.

35. Ms Jennifer Collison advised that the department is assisting local companies to gain Defence contracts and is to provide a representative. Cr Tate suggested the Hunter Regional Development Board could have a role.
36. Ms Collison advised that the department was assisting with the drainage issues associated with the DAREZ development application. Cr MacKenzie expressed his dissatisfaction with the department's assistance to date. Ms Collison advised the department will continue to assist working through the issues.

Item 9 - NAL Update.

37. Mr Paul Hughes advised the airport had a relatively flat year in terms of passenger growth but the airport's capacity continued to grow, and can now accommodate 2 million passenger movements per year. The Department of Defence had approved a number of development applications to expand the terminal. The airport has also been caught up in some of the drainage issues at the DAREZ. Mr Hughes noted that uncertainty about the proposed runway extension was a significant issue for the airport in terms of noise and its planned eastern aerospace precinct.
38. In relation to the Government's recently released Aviation White Paper, NAL sees itself as a regional airport and not as a second airport for Sydney.
39. Cr MacKenzie expressed his gratitude toward Defence for it continuing to allow NAL to provide regional air services at WLM.
40. The Member for Newcastle queried whether any tourism funding was available.

Item 10 - Other Business.

41. Other Business – there was no other business.

Item 11 - Next Meeting.

42. Mr Owens thanked forum members for a productive and open discussion and looked forward to meeting with them at the next forum meeting.
43. The next meeting could possibly be held in early October, but this will be confirmed when the 2010 Parliamentary Sitting days for both the Federal and NSW Parliaments are known. Members will be further advised of timings and meeting location.
44. Mr Owens closed the meeting at 11:45.

WILLIAMTOWN CONSULTATIVE FORUM**DATE: Friday 5 March 2010****ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	TITLE AND ORGANISATION
<u>Members</u>	
BALDWIN MP, Bob	Federal Member for Paterson
COLLISON, Jennifer	Regional Coordinator Hunter Region, NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet
GRIERSON MP, Sharon	Federal Member for Newcastle
HUGHES Paul	CEO, Newcastle Airport Limited
MACKENZIE, Bruce	Mayor, Port Stephens
OWENS, John	Head Infrastructure, Defence (Chair)
TATE, John	Lord Mayor, Newcastle City
<u>Other Attendees</u>	
BALLANTYNE, Daniel	City Assets, Newcastle City Council
BRAZ, Charnie	Community Engagement Lead, Defence
BRIEDIS, Richard	Defence Advisor to Bob Baldwin MP
BROYD, David	Manager Sustainable Planning, Port Stephens
CHERLAY, Rod	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DERRIMAN, Bernice	Office of Craig Baumann MP
DOPSON, Matt	A/g Director Land Planning & Spatial Information, Defence
GRADY, Tony	Group Captain, Air Force Headquarters, Defence
HILL, Laura	Graduate, Defence
HORN, Helen	Senior Environmental Manager Williamtown, Defence
JOHNSON, Glen	Wing Commander, Base Executive Officer RAAF Williamtown, Defence
MANGION, Charles	Base Support Manager Williamtown, Defence
MORRIS, Lesley	Economic Development Manager, Port Stephens Council
OLSEN, Adam	Senior Constituent Advisor to Bob Baldwin MP
PONTON, Jim	Executive Officer Land Planning, Defence
SMITH, Mike	Group Captain, Chief of Staff Air Combat Group, Defence
WALLIS, Wayne	A/g General Manager Port Stephens
WHEATON, Chris	Group Captain, Director Acquisition New Air Combat Capability, Defence