

Department of Defence

Annual Environmental Compliance Report 2018

EPBC reference 2014/7123

Removal of heritage buildings at RAAF Base Amberley
near Ipswich, Queensland

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Document Version Control

Version	Date	Approved by	Details / Reason for Change
1	28 Sep 2017	Tim McKay	Final version for 2018

Declaration of accuracy

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed



Full name (please print)

Tim McKay

Position (please print)

Assistant Director

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Department of Defence

ABN: 68 706 814 312

Date

28 September 2018

1. Description of activities

On 29 January 2014, the Department of Defence (Defence) referred the removal of 38 structures mentioned in the Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) for RAAF Base Amberley (near Ipswich in southern Queensland) for consideration under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (EPBC reference: 2014/7123).

It was determined that the action required assessment and approval by the Minister for the Environment under section 28 of the EPBC Act (protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions). A Preliminary Documentation assessment method was conducted and the action was approved, subject to conditions, on 9 June 2015.

Condition 9 of the EPBC Act approval requires publication of an annual compliance report by 1 October of each year after the commencement of the action. The purpose of an annual compliance report is to identify whether compliance with the conditions of approval has occurred over the previous 12 month period.

The action commenced on 14 October 2016. The first annual compliance report for the approved action was published in late September 2017. This is the second annual compliance report.

This report is published on the Defence website at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp>

2. Compliance table

The following table identifies each condition of approval and evidence of compliance.

Table 1 – Compliance against EPBC Act conditions of approval

Condition number	Condition	Compliant / Non-compliant / Not triggered / Not applicable	Evidence / comments
1	The approval holder must not demolish any heritage buildings, or parts thereof, except as indicated in the project area.	Compliant	No CHL-cited buildings located outside of the project area have been demolished.
2	To ensure that information on the heritage-listed buildings on the Amberley RAAF Base Group Commonwealth heritage listed site is retained, prior to commencement of the action the approval holder must undertake archival recording of all heritage buildings in the project area. This recording must: - Be in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage <i>Archival Recording of Heritage Places</i> (2013); - Include an archival photographic record of the heritage buildings within the project area. This must be undertaken by a photographer with experience in compilation of archival records and include satellite imagery or photography from an aircraft to capture aerial images of the base; - Include a technical description of the precincts, buildings and operations, as well as oral accounts with people associated with the airbase;	Compliant	An archival record of all CHL-cited buildings and structures in the project area was completed in February 2016. The Archival Report was prepared by Defence's consultants, RPS Project Management, to address all requirements set out in condition 2. Copies of the Archival Report were lodged with the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Library and the Ipswich Central Library on 26 February 2016. Both institutions have confirmed receipt. On 13 May 2016, Defence advised the Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) that lodging the Archival Report with the National Archives of Australia is subject to Australian Government archiving policy which requires that documents be held by departments and agencies for a minimum period of 7 years before they are eligible for transfer to the National Archives. Defence has made the Archival Report available for download from its website at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp

	d. Include a description of the equipment and techniques employed in compilation of the record; e. Include a catalogue of all images, referenced to location plans; f. Include measured drawings, comprising floor plans, elevations of each building element and roof plans. These must include a description of the measurement techniques employed to produce the drawings; g. Include 3D digital recording of the assets in their current context in order to generate virtual models of the place; h. Be lodged with the National Archives of Australia, the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Library and the Ipswich Central Library; and i. Be available to view online at no monetary cost, in an easily accessible form, from the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Library or similar website, for at least the life of the approval.		
3	Prior to the commencement of the action, the approval holder must submit for the Minister's approval a Heritage Interpretation Plan for RAAF Base Amberley with a focus on the phases of historic development of the airbase. The Heritage Interpretation Plan must: a. Be prepared in consultation with the Department; b. Identify opportunities to utilise media produced by the archival recording process outlined in Condition 2; c. Identify opportunities to utilise material or moveable items salvaged from the project area where this is practical; d. Include a timeline for the implementation of the interpretation works; e. Include the necessary content and specifications for a public display or exhibition of material that communicates the history of RAAF Base Amberley;	Compliant	The RAAF Base Amberley Heritage Interpretation Plan (2016) (HIP) was approved by DoEE on 13 May 2016. a. Defence provided draft versions of the HIP to DoEE for review and comment on 24 November 2015, 30 March 2016 and 9 May 2016. b. The HIP includes options and recommendations for how the recorded archival media will be used and presented. c. Recommendations are included in the HIP with regard to how the materials/moveable items salvaged from the project area can be used. d. The HIP includes a proposed timeline for the implementation of the interpretation works. e. Recommendations are included in the HIP for the necessary content and specifications for a public display or exhibition of material that communicates the history of RAAF Base Amberley. f. Specifications listed in condition 3f (i)-(v.), to enable publication of a book capturing the heritage values of RAAF Amberley, and further

	f. Include the necessary detail and specifications to enable publication of a book that captures the heritage values of RAAF Base Amberley. The book must: i. Be available in hard copy; ii. Be available to view online at no monetary cost, in an easily accessible form, from the State Library of Queensland's John Oxley Library or similar website, for at least the life of the approval; iii. Be identified by an International Standard Book Number (ISBN); iv. Be published in accordance with Australian Government publishing guidelines including the <i>Style Manual; For Authors, Editors and Printers, 6th Edition</i>, and be publicly accessible through the Commonwealth Library Deposit and Free Issue Schemes; and v. Be prepared with the involvement of relevant publishing professionals for the editorial and design of the book, as well as a historian of RAAF No. 23 Squadron Association and any other relevant historians involved with RAAF base Amberley for the content material. The approval holder must not commence the action until the Heritage Interpretation Plan is approved by the Minister. The approved Heritage Interpretation Plan must be implemented.		specifications to inform a design brief for the book, have been included in the HIP. The final draft of the manuscript for the book was sent to the Defence Publishing Service in August 2018. It is expected the book will be published prior to the next annual compliance report (due 1 October 2019). i. The book will be made available in hard copy. The Defence Publishing Service will design and format the book to hardcover format and will arrange for printing and distribution as required. ii. Defence Publishing Service will format the book to be a downloadable PDF, and this will be made available on a Defence website to view online at no monetary cost. Ipswich Central Library has also expressed interest in hosting the online version of the book. iii. The Defence Publishing Service will obtain an ISBN number when they design and format the book for publishing. iv. The HIP includes the specification that the book will be produced in accordance with the Australian Government publishing guidelines, including the Style Manual. The book will be made publicly accessible through the Commonwealth Library Deposit and Free Issue Schemes. v. The book has been prepared in consultation with the historian of RAAF No. 23 Squadron Association, the RAAF Museum at Point Cook, the RAAF Historian and the Air Force Heritage Director. A focus group of relevant Base representatives with ample local and historical knowledge has participated in sourcing and verifying content material. The first draft manuscript of the book was reviewed by a select group of Defence stakeholders. Comments were collated and an updated final draft manuscript has been produced. The RAAF Historian has been heavily involved in finalising all outstanding issues with the draft manuscript. The RAAF Historian has provided written acceptance of the final manuscript of book. DoEE approved the HIP on 13 May 2016. Action to demolish CHL-cited buildings in the project area commenced on 14 October 2016 (see condition 9).
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4	To minimise the impacts to heritage values resulting from the action, within three years of the commencement of the action, the approval holder must: - Relocate at least one Bellman hanger, at least two P1-type timber huts and at least one Starter Cartridge store/Explosives Locker to a suitable location for adaptive re-use on the site of RAAF Base Amberley. The approval holder must ensure that relocation of these buildings will not impact upon any existing heritage values at the relocation site; - Salvage components of demolished Bellman hangars to support the maintenance of other retained Bellman hangars where this is practical; and - Offer surplus Bellman hangars and P1 timber huts to aviation history organisations for removal and relocation.	Compliant	In progress. - Works are currently underway to relocate the structures identified in the condition to suitable locations on the Base. This is on track to be achieved within 3 years of the commencement of the action. - The opportunity to salvage components from the first group of Bellman hangars earmarked for demolition has been undertaken with a view to supporting the relocation of a Bellman hangar elsewhere on the Base. - Defence has received a number of enquiries from parties seeking surplus Bellman hangars and P1 huts. Three Bellman hangars and two P1 huts are currently being held at RAAF Base Amberley pending decisions about gifting them to aviation history organisations. Defence must satisfy all relevant Australian Government policies regarding the gifting of Commonwealth assets.
5	To ensure the ongoing protection of heritage values following the action, the approval holder must submit a Heritage Management Plan for the Minister's approval within twenty-four months of the commencement of the action. The Heritage Management Plan must: - Outline guidance for the management and promotion of heritage values at RAAF Base Amberley; and - Include an assessment report of Commonwealth heritage values that remain at RAAF Base Amberley. The assessment report must be undertaken in accordance with the Department's <i>Commonwealth Heritage List Historic Heritage Assessment Guidelines</i> and submitted to the Department upon completion. The approved Heritage Management Plan must be implemented.	Compliant	In progress. An assessment of the Commonwealth historic heritage values that remain at RAAF Base Amberley has been completed. Defence submitted that report to DoEE on 15 August 2016. The assessment was undertaken in accordance with DoEE's <i>CHL Historic Heritage Assessment Guidelines</i>. A Heritage Management Plan (HMP) is currently being prepared to address the requirements of this approval condition. A draft HMP was submitted on 24 July 2018 to DoEE for review and comment. Defence is currently consulting with relevant Traditional Owners about Indigenous heritage values at RAAF Base Amberley. Defence's intention is to finalise and submit the HMP for approval after the results of consultation with relevant Traditional Owners have been incorporated into the document.
6	To avoid and mitigate impacts to any Koalas within the project area, the approval holder must undertake management measures including, but not limited to:	Compliant	In progress. The requirements of this condition are being implemented through Defence's Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) process.

	a. The development and implementation of a plan for relocation activities; b. Engagement of a qualified fauna spotter-catcher to undertake surveys prior to commencement of the action; and c. If Koalas are found in the project area, any handling of Koalas required to relocate or otherwise protect them prior to and during the action in accordance with the plan for relocation activities.		
7	Within 30 days after the commencement of the action, the approval holder must advise the Department in writing of the actual date of commencement.	Compliant	Defence notified DoEE on 20 July 2016 about the commencement of works to prepare a CHL-cited building (Asset number 467, ARDU building) for relocation elsewhere on the Base. On 14 October 2016, Defence notified DoEE about the demolition of 10 CHL-cited buildings (Asset numbers 95 to 104 (Lysaght sheds}). As this event involved the actual demolition of CHL-cited buildings, this date is considered to be the date the action commenced.
8	The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the conditions of approval, including measures taken to implement the plans and strategies required by this approval, and make them available upon request to the Department. Such records may be subject to audit by the Department or an independent auditor in accordance with section 458 of the EPBC Act, or used to verify compliance with the conditions of approval. Summaries of audits may be posted on the Department's website. The results of audits may also be publicised through the general media.	Compliant	Accurate records of all activities relevant to the conditions of approval, including the implementation of plans, are maintained in Defence's official recordkeeping system.
9	By 1 October of each year after the commencement of the action, approval holder must publish a report on its website addressing compliance with the conditions of this approval over the previous 12 months, including implementation of any management plans and strategies as specified in the conditions. The Approval Holder may discontinue publishing annual compliance reports with the written agreement of the Minister.	Compliant	The action commenced on 14 October 2016. The first annual compliance report was published on 27 September 2017. This is the second annual compliance report. Defence publishes its EPBC Act annual compliance reports on its website at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp

10	Non-compliance with any of the conditions of this approval must be reported to the Department within 48 hours of discovery by the approval holder.	Not triggered	
11	If the approval holder wishes to carry out any activity otherwise than in accordance with the plans and strategies specified in the conditions, the approval holder must submit to the Department for the Minister's written approval a revised version of that plan or strategy. The approval holder must not commence the varied activity until the Minister has approved the varied plan or strategy in writing. The Minister will not approve a varied plan or strategy unless the revised plan or strategy would result in an equivalent or improved environmental outcome over time. If the Minister approves the revised plan or strategy, the approval holder must implement that plan or strategy in place of the plan or strategy previously approved.	Not triggered	
12	If the Minister believes that it is necessary or convenient for the protection of the environment to do so, the Minister may request that the person taking the action make specified revisions to the plans and strategies specified in the conditions and submit the revised plan or strategy for the Minister's written approval. The person taking the action must comply with any such request. The approval holder must implement the revised approved plan or strategy. Unless the Minister has approved the revised plan or strategy, then the revised approved plan or strategy must continue to implement the plan or strategy previously approved, as specified in the conditions.	Not triggered	
13	If, at any time after 7 years from the date of this approval, the approval holder has not substantially commenced the action, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the written agreement of the Minister.	Not applicable	Defence commenced action on 14 October 2016.
14	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must publish all plans and strategies referred to in these conditions of approval on its website. Each plan and strategy must be published on the website within 1 month of being approved and must remain published for the life of the approval.	Compliant	All plans and strategies are published at: http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Environmental.asp

15	Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister, the approval holder must provide a copy of each approved plan and strategy referred to in these conditions of approval to members of the public upon request. Copies must be provided within a reasonable time of the request.	Not triggered	No requests for plans or strategies have been made.
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3. Correcting non-compliances

No non-compliances are identified.

4. New environmental risks

No new environmental risks are identified.