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# RAAF BASE TINDAL

## BASE AIRCRAFT NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Approved by:

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## **AMENDMENT / REVIEW CERTIFICATE**

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**RAAF BASE TINDAL BASE AIRCRAFT NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN****References**

- A. Air Force Aircraft Noise Management Strategy 2018 – 2023
- B. Air Command Standing Instruction (Operations) 03-11, Aircraft Noise Management
- C. Approval conditions for Flying Operations of the F-35A Lightning II, EPBC 2010/5747

**Introduction**

1. Aircraft noise is an unavoidable consequence of Air Force operations and training. The impact of aircraft noise affects communities in different ways. Air Force has an obligation to reduce the effects of aircraft noise on local communities to the maximum extent possible, whilst achieving operational and training outcomes for Government. Consequently, aircraft noise is managed locally by personnel who know and understand community concerns.
2. RAAF Base Tindal Base Aircraft Noise Management Plan (BANMP) informs and aims to improve public understanding of aircraft noise management strategies in the vicinity of RAAF Base Tindal.
3. RAAF Base Tindal is located 15 kilometres outside of Katherine and 320 kilometres south-east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. Although it is Air Force's youngest operational base (except for bare bases), it is one of Australia's most important Defence sites.
4. RAAF Base Tindal annually hosts major exercises typically featuring visiting aircraft and personnel from around the country and world. Notable exercises include Pitch Black, Diamond Storm, Arnhem Thunder and Talisman Sabre. RAAF Base Tindal's dry-season weather and proximity to Delamere Air Weapons Range makes it an ideal location to conduct high-end training sorties for RAAF and coalition partners.

5. The Katherine Town Council has a working agreement with RAAF Base Tindal for usage of the airstrip and associated facilities (a small civil apron and terminal). RAAF Base Tindal is available 24 hours each day for all emergency services aircraft (Careflight, Royal Flying Doctors), Regular Public Transport (RPT) and approved General Aviation (GA) operations. All noise related RPT and GA complaints are managed by Airservices Australia's [Noise Complaints and Information Service](#) (NCIS)<sup>1</sup>.

**Background and scope**

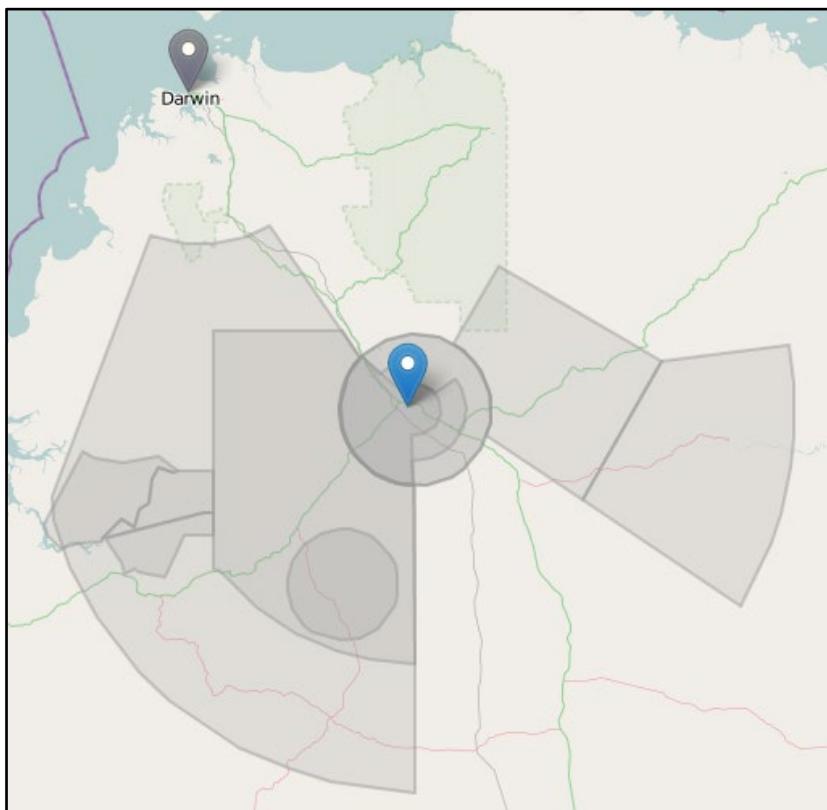
6. The BANMP has been raised in compliance with the Air Force Aircraft Noise Management Strategy, Reference A and Air Command Standing Instruction (Operations) 03-11, Reference B. The BANMP applies to all flying and ground operations involving Air Force aircraft, civil-registered aircraft leased by the Air Force, Defence contracted aircraft operated by external service providers and foreign military aircraft operating from RAAF Base Tindal.

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<sup>1</sup> Aircraft noise enquiries or complaints about non-military aircraft should be directed to Airservices Australia's Noise Complaints and Information Service (<https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/community/environment/aircraft-noise/about-making-a-complaint/>).

**Description of standard aircraft operations**

7. RAAF aircraft permanently based at RAAF Base Tindal include:
  - a. F/A-18A/B Classic Hornet dual jet engine, single and twin seat fighter aircraft
  - b. Augusta Westland AW139 or Bell B412 turbo shaft helicopters operated by Canadian Helicopter Corporation for Search and Rescue (SAR).
8. The average number of military aircraft movements is 140 per week.
9. The average number of civilian flights (RPT and GA) is 145 movements per week.
10. RAAF Base Tindal utilises the flying and training areas indicated in Figure one below.



**Figure One: RAAF Base Tindal Primary Flying and Training Areas**

11. Where possible, RAAF Base Tindal will advise the local community of non-routine flying events. This is not always possible due to changes in weather conditions or operational restrictions which may require aircraft to operate over land training areas more frequently. Members of the public can access information regarding planned and non-routine flying via the [Air Force Flying Operations](https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity) website<sup>2</sup>.

12. RAAF Base Tindal has a single runway 14/32 aligned south-east/north-west. Katherine is 15km north-west of RAAF Base Tindal, close to the aircraft flight paths for Runway 32 departures and Runway 14 arrivals. Runway 14 is serviced by an Instrument Landing System precision approach used to guide pilots to a safe landing in poor weather.

<sup>2</sup>

Webpage link [<https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity>]

13. Preferred runway use is determined primarily by wind direction and is stipulated by Air Traffic Control (ATC) to ensure safety of flight. When ATC is not active, pilots determine the most suitable runway by examining the wind conditions from weather reports and also wind socks located at the airfield.

### **Variations to standard aircraft operations**

14. The most common foreseeable variation to the regular flying schedule at RAAF Base Tindal is visiting aircraft from other Bases. At times, aircraft may operate outside normal airfield operating hours with approval granted by the Tindal Air Base Executive Officer. Attempts will be made where possible to advertise changes to the community. Defence has an extensive range of aircraft with differing engine configurations including:

- a. F-35A Lightning II, single jet engine,
- b. F/A-18F Super Hornet, twin jet engine,
- c. EA-18G Growler, twin jet engine,
- d. C-17A Globemaster III, four turbofan engines,
- e. E-7A Wedgetail, two turbofan engines,
- f. C-130J Hercules, four turboprop engines,
- g. C-27J Spartan, two turboprop engines,
- h. CL604 Challenger, two turbofan engines,
- i. P-8A Poseidon, two turbofan engines,
- j. B350 King Air, two turboprop engines,
- k. Boeing BBJ, two turbofan engines,
- l. Falcon 7X, three turbofan engines,
- m. Various single and multi-rotor aircraft, single and twin turboshaft engines, and
- n. Visiting aircraft types from International Defence Forces.

15. Unforeseeable variations (caused by inclement weather and aircraft serviceability issues) will occur from time to time. Noise abatement measures will be implemented where possible.

**Tindal noise management**

16. RAAF Base Tindal maintains guidelines such as Base Standing Instructions and Range Standing Instructions, designed to provide a baseline for aircraft operations on Defence managed lands. All operators adhere to these instructions. Annex A outlines the Air Force Fly Neighbourly policy. Air Combat Group (ACG) also has Standing Instructions, which provide the basis for aircraft operations flown by all ACG aircrew. These include:

- a. **Fly Neighbourly procedures.** ACG has developed fly neighbourly practices and guidance for subordinate units, including those that will operate the F-35A. The policy provides specific guidance for RAAF Base Tindal, however a summary of the main generic noise management guidelines for RAAF Base Tindal are as follows:
  - (1) Noise management is a briefing item for all flying. ACG aircrew conduct operations with due cognisance of the impact of noise on communities and residents under or in the vicinity of the flight path.
  - (2) Noise abatement procedures complement extant local procedures.
  - (3) Military aircraft will not operate above the speed of sound within 30 nautical miles of RAAF Base Tindal.
  - (4) Aircraft will avoid overflying homesteads and communities within the training areas.

17. **F-35A Lightning II.** Reference C requires RAAF Bases to detail a noise management plan to monitor and minimise noise disturbance from F-35A Lightning II aircraft operations. F-35A Lightning II operations from RAAF Base Tindal are expected to commence in 2022. A Noise and Flight Path Monitoring System (NFPMS) will be installed to monitor noise from the F-35A Lightning II aircraft when it is operational. The strategy for detailing compliance with the conditions specified in Reference C is contained in Enclosure one to this document.

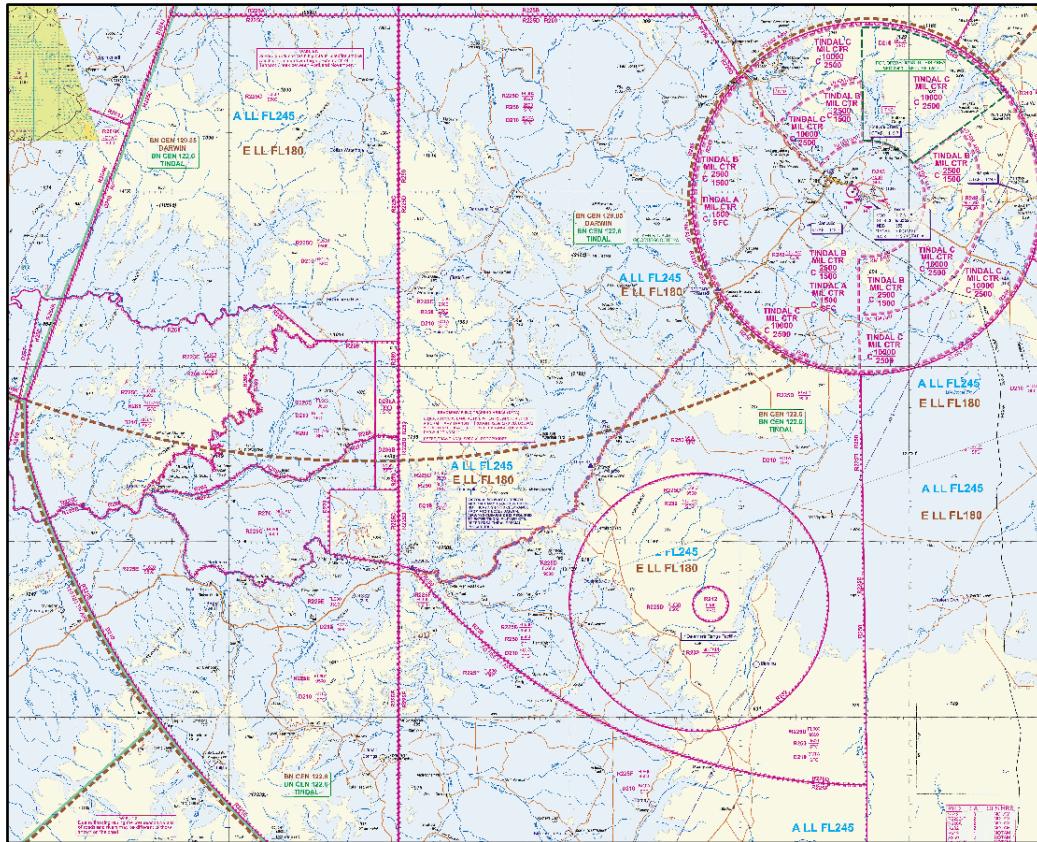
18. F-35A Lightning II flying operations in Australia are subject to the conditions set out in Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) approval 2010/5747. Enclosure one contains details on the status of compliance with approval condition 3 of the EPBC 2010/5747 that relates to Aircraft Noise Management Plans.

**Low flying**

19. Low flying is defined flight below 500 feet (152 meters) over a non-built up area or 1,000 feet (304 meters) over a built up area, above obstacles within 968 feet (600 meters).

## RAAF Base Tindal Airspace

20. Aircraft operating from RAAF Base Tindal utilise nearby Flying Training Areas (FTAs) for training and exercises. The locations are shown in figure two below.



**Figure two: RAAF Base Tindal Airspace FTAs**

## Working with Community

21. Residents should consider the [Australian Noise Exposure Concept \(ANEC\)](#)<sup>3</sup> map for RAAF Base Tindal, which provides a forecast of cumulative annual aircraft noise. ANEC and Australian Noise Exposure Forecast (ANEF) maps provide a forecast of anticipated noise for a future period, for that location. The ANEC/ANEF does not show every flight path and homeowners with properties outside of the map zones may still experience aircraft noise. The NFPMS will be developed to provide a more accurate and useful record of flight paths of all aircraft and noise events in close proximity to RAAF Base Tindal.

22. RAAF Base Tindal engages regularly with Katherine Town council. The Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) RAAF Base Tindal and the Tindal Base Manager meet with Katherine Town Council quarterly (and as required) to exchange information relating to all matters within the Tindal Base that might impact the Katherine region, including noise and environmental issues.

23. SADFO RAAF Base Tindal or delegate also attend Katherine Town Council Ordinary Council Meetings and Open Forums, where community members can raise questions via the process indicated on [Katherine Town Councils](#)<sup>4</sup> website.

3 Webpage link [[https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/\\_Master/Docs/ANEF/2025\\_ANEC\\_RAAF\\_Tindal.pdf](https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/_Master/Docs/ANEF/2025_ANEC_RAAF_Tindal.pdf)]  
4 Webpage link [<https://www.katherine.nt.gov.au/council-meetings>]

4 Webpage link [<https://www.katherine.nt.gov.au/council-meetings>]

24. RAAF Base Tindal makes all attempts to advise local communities of non-routine flying operations via Media Releases, social media, emails to local registered community residents and on the [Air Force flying operations](https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity)<sup>5</sup> website. Annex A provides the Air Force Fly Neighbourly Policy.

25. Where possible, RAAF Base Tindal will advise the local community of non-routine flying events. This is not always possible due to changes in weather conditions or operational restrictions which may require aircraft to operate over land training areas more frequently.

## **Noise Monitoring**

26. Defence operates the NFPMS to provide the community information about aircraft noise and flight paths associated with military operations. The NFPMS website can be accessed via the [Defence Aircraft Noise Website Monitoring](https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp)<sup>6</sup> tab. On this site, RAAF Base Tindal will have a similar map as those that are currently displayed from RAAF Base Williamtown, Townsville and Amberley. This interactive and accessible database can be used to develop reports of aircraft flight paths and volume of aircraft traffic. The site will also provide details of the monitoring station locations around RAAF Base Tindal.

27. The NFPMS allows individuals to gain an understanding of all flying activity near the Base. Defence uses the data to publish a monthly report of fast jet flying activity, and all aircraft flight activity. Further details on Noise Monitoring Sites will be provided in future updates of this BANMP.

## **Noise Complaints**

28. RAAF Base Tindal manages noise complaints from the public in accordance with Reference B. Complaints regarding Air Force aircraft noise can be made via:

- a. the Defence switchboard on 1300 333 362 and ask to be connected to RAAF Base Tindal,
- b. online by the [aircraft noise enquiry or complaint form](https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/OnlineForm.asp)<sup>7</sup>, or
- c. mail to:

Staff Officer Aircraft Noise Management  
R8-03-030  
Russell Drive  
Russell  
ACT 2601

29. On receipt of a noise complaint, a Defence member will initiate an investigation to determine the occurrence and likely operating Squadron. Contact will be made to the complainant to provide information on the nature of the operations to the query. Complaints relating to civilian aircraft should be directed to [Airservices Australia NCIS](https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/community/environment/aircraft-noise/about-making-a-complaint/)<sup>8</sup>.

30. To assist with the investigation, the date and time, location, and a description of the

<sup>5</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity>]

<sup>6</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp>]

<sup>7</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/OnlineForm.asp>]

<sup>8</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.airservicesaustralia.com/community/environment/aircraft-noise/about-making-a-complaint/>]

event that prompted the enquiry or complaint should be clearly articulated. Following the guidelines of Defence Noise Management process, an initial response should be provided within 2 working days. If the complaint requires further investigation, the aim is to resolve the case within 28 working days

31. Military aircraft noise complaints are generally taken by RAAF Base Tindal Air Base Command Post (ABCP) and documented on webform OA039. All completed investigations are forwarded to Air Force Headquarters Staff Officer Aircraft Noise Management in Canberra via Headquarters Air Command for further vetting.

32. Further details on the aircraft noise complaint process can be found on the [Defence Aircraft Noise](#)<sup>9</sup> website.

33. If a complainant is unsatisfied with how their aircraft noise complaint has been handled, the complainant may seek an independent review by the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman (ANO). The ANO will only review aircraft noise complaints that have already been submitted to the Department of Defence. Further information on the ANO including the ANO Charter and other policies can be found on the [ANO website](#)<sup>10</sup>.

34. A complaint investigation can be submitted to the ANO via:

- a. The ANO's [online complaint form](#)<sup>11</sup>,
- b. Toll free phone number 1800 266 040,
- c. Email [ano@ano.gov.au](mailto:ano@ano.gov.au), or
- d. Mail:

Aircraft Noise Ombudsman  
GPO Box 1985  
Canberra City ACT 2601

## **Review and update process**

35. This document will be reviewed annually.

36. The document will be made available on the [RAAF Base Tindal](#)<sup>12</sup> webpage of the [Defence Aircraft Noise website](#)<sup>13</sup>.

## **Annex:**

- A. Air Force Fly Neighbourly Policy

## **Enclosure:**

1. RAAF Base Tindal – Compliance with Condition 3 of EPBC Approval 2010/5747

<sup>9</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/ContactUs.asp>]

<sup>10</sup> Webpage link [<https://ano.gov.au/about/>]

<sup>11</sup> Webpage link [<https://ano.gov.au/complaints/form.asp>]

<sup>12</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Tindal/Default.asp>]

<sup>13</sup> Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Default.asp>]

**AIR FORCE FLY NEIGHBOURLY POLICY**

1. Air Force is working with local communities near airbases, training areas and air weapons ranges to reduce noise impacts whilst balancing operational and training requirements.
2. Air Force commits to undertake flying operations in a manner which is considerate of our local communities, whilst maintaining safe operation of our aircraft and achieving the required levels of capability. Guided by these principles Air Force will:
  - a. comply with published airfield noise abatement procedures
  - b. use appropriate runway length for departures to maximise height over local communities
  - c. minimise the use of afterburner on fast jets during take-off and minimise noise during climb out
  - d. limit the speed of aircraft over populated areas
  - e. minimise flight over residential areas and other noise sensitive buildings such as hospitals, schools and farming communities
  - f. avoid low flying over known noise sensitive areas such as livestock yards minimise flying late at night or early in the morning
  - g. include aircraft noise awareness in pilot training and familiarization
  - h. notify local communities of major exercises or other non-routine training and flying activities such as flying displays.
3. To further minimise noise at some bases Air Force will:
  - a. limit continuous circuit training at night and on weekends and public holidays
  - b. use satellite airfields for repetitive aircraft circuits
  - c. vary flight paths to share noise
  - d. consider continuous descents to reduce noise
  - e. implement local engine run-ups procedures
  - f. minimise jet or turbo prop engine testing at night.
4. For further information, please see the [Defence Aircraft Noise](https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Default.asp)<sup>14</sup> website.

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<sup>14</sup>

Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Default.asp>]

Table E-1: RAAF Base Tindal – Compliance with Condition 3 of EPBC Approval 2010/5747

Condition	Condition requirement	Response
3	<p>Prepare and implement Aircraft Noise Management Plan(s), as described in the Aircraft Noise Management Strategy, at RAAF Base(s) to minimise noise disturbance at sensitive receptors from the flying operations of the F-35A Lightning II aircraft. The plan(s) must include, but not be limited to, the following measures:</p>	<p>Air Force has prepared the RAAF Base Tindal, Base Aircraft Noise Management Plan (BANMP) (Document ID: BP3185434). It is an operational document that addresses noise arising from all Air Force aircraft that utilise RAAF Base Tindal, including F-35A aircraft.</p> <p>The RAAF Base Tindal BANMP is prepared and implemented as described in, and works towards the objectives of, the Air Force Aircraft Noise Management Policy.</p> <p>Air Force maintains an Australia-wide Hazard and Noise Database (HAND), that is centrally updated periodically and depicts all hazards and noise sensitive areas on a map. Pilots use HAND data in order to plan low level flying operations outside of Air Traffic Control (ATC) controlled airspace. When within ATC controlled airspace, pilots follow ATC procedures for arrivals, departures and training profiles (practice circuits and instrument approaches).</p> <p>F-35A flying operations will commence at other RAAF Bases (Tindal, Darwin and Townsville) no earlier than 2020.</p>
3.a	<p>Comparison of actual flight activity of F-35A Lightning II aircraft with those predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement;</p>	<p>F-35A flying activity at RAAF Base Tindal will commence from December 2021. A comparison of F-35A flight activity at RAAF Base Williamtown in relation to the Environmental Impact Statement, has been underway since 2019. The release of the 2021 Biennial report is the first in a series of reports that compare flight activity of the F-35A.</p> <p>As the F-35A has not operated at RAAF Base Tindal, no comparisons are possible within the BANMP. However, comparisons will be provided in the biennial report for 2023 as F-35A operations commence at RAAF Base Tindal. F-35A operations are expected to begin from December 2021 and comparisons will be included in</p>

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<b>Condition</b>	<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Response</b>
		future revisions of this BANMP.
3.b	A review of existing noise management programmes	<p>Air Force's Aircraft Noise Management Policy and the Fly Neighbourly Policy contains a commitment to conduct a biennial evaluation of the aircraft noise management system. Air Force will review and evaluate the performance of the aircraft noise management system (which includes noise management programs) with the aim of validating the integrity of the system and ensuring continual improvement.</p> <p>Defence's Aircraft Noise Management Policy contains Strategic guidance, being the Air Force Aircraft Noise Management Strategy and Air Force's Fly Neighbourly Policy and well as operational policies aimed at tactical implementation of noise management/mitigation strategies.</p> <p>The Air Force Aircraft Noise Management Strategy is the governing framework that supports how Air Force meets environmental and public objectives for managing Aircraft Noise. The Strategy is reviewed quinquennially (every 5 years). The Strategy outlines six strategic objectives and appropriate stakeholders to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. minimise the impact of aircraft noise on local communities</li><li>2. continue proactive community engagement and consultation</li><li>3. manage noise complaints effectively and in a timely manner</li><li>4. minimise urban encroachment on Air Force airfields and training areas through liaison with state and local government planning teams</li><li>5. conduct responsible environmental planning</li><li>6. integrate a comprehensive aircraft noise management system into Air Force activities.</li></ol> <p>Air Force's Fly Neighbourly Policy sets an overarching commitment to balance operational and training requirements while undertaking flying operations in a manner that is considerate of our local communities, safe and achieves capability requirements. Minimisation strategies such as limiting speed over populated areas,</p>

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Condition	Condition requirement	Response
		<p>avoiding flying over known sensitive locations, minimising flying late at night and early in the morning are a few of the strategies employed</p> <p>One of the key aspects of the Aircraft Noise Management Strategy is the internal Aircraft Noise Management System (AC SI(OPS) 03-11) (the System). The System is reviewed biennially, but can be amended out of session if warranted. The system outlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aircraft noise mitigation procedures</li><li>• Aircraft noise complaint management</li><li>• Communication and collaboration</li><li>• Monitoring and review.</li></ul> <p>There are a number of other Instructions and that are used internally to ensure consistency across all airbases in Australia. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air Activities Environmental Management Plan (AAEMP), which provides guidance for planners and aircrew to identify and avoid sensitive receptors in order to manage impacts from aircraft noise</li><li>• Air Combat Groups Fly Neighbourly Policy (ACG SI(OPS) 03-03)</li><li>• Flight Information Handbook Australia (FIHA)</li><li>• General Planning Australia (GPA)</li><li>• En Route Supplement Australia (ERSA)</li><li>• AC SI (OPS) 03-04: Supersonic Flight</li><li>• Base Aircraft Noise Management Plan</li></ul>
3.c	<p>Monitoring, to validate predicted noise impacts to sensitive receptors at RAAF Base Williamtown (including Salt Ash Air Weapons Range), RAAF Base Tindal and RAAF Base Townsville. This must include, but not be limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. An investigation of alternative noise measurement and analysis methods;</li></ol>	<p>F-35A Lightning II aircraft is yet to operate from RAAF Base Tindal however operations are expected to commence in December of 2021.</p> <p>3.c.i. The proposals presented in the Environmental Impact Statement are currently the world's best practice in noise and flight activity monitoring. Noise and flight activity measurement and analysis methods in Australia are guided by technical, scientific and government organisations including Standards Australia and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and</p>

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Condition	Condition requirement	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. Utilisation of Noise and Flight Path Monitoring Systems (where installed), to provide ongoing noise information, and the development of a noise measuring system at RAAF Base Tindal;</li> <li>iii. Comparison of actual measured F-35A Lightning II aircraft noise levels with those predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement; and</li> <li>iv. Biennial review of noise monitoring locations, unless agreed with the Minister.</li> </ul>	<p>Communities. Defence will continue to be advised by aircraft noise industry experts on how to comply with accepted and contemporary noise and flight activity measurement and analysis methods. Defence will conduct periodic reviews of the NFPMS to ensure best practice approaches for noise and flight activity monitoring are enacted.</p> <p>In July 2021, Defence released the report for EPBC 2010/5747 named 'Review of F-35A Aircraft Noise Management and Reporting'. The review was conducted by Marshal Day Acoustics and was based on a desktop/literature review of recent publications, new or updated policies, technologies and websites from other Air Force bases or major civilian airports whom report on aircraft noise.</p> <p>Alternative noise measurement and analysis methods investigated included the Casper, Aerovision and Topsonic systems. The report concluded that it would be unlikely that alternative platforms would provide any added practical benefit over the current system and that the current system provides a comparable level of information to these methods.</p> <p>For further information and to read the full report, see the <a href="#">F-35A EIS<sup>15</sup></a> website</p> <p>3.c.ii. Defence will establish a NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal by the end of 2021, enabling an analysis of noise and flight activity in the area to ensure that condition 3c.iii can be met. The NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal will be reviewed in the second biennial report in 2023. Following, and depending on the outcomes of this review, the NFPMS may be discontinued at RAAF Base Tindal. If the NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal is discontinued, it will be replaced by an appropriate alternative noise monitoring and reporting mechanism. Any change to the noise monitoring and reporting systems at RAAF Base Tindal will be reflected in the RAAF Base Tindal BANMP, revisions of which must and will be submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Environment in accordance with condition 9 of EPBC Act approval EPBC 2010/5747.</p>

<sup>15</sup>Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AirCraftNoise/Environment/F35EIS.asp>]

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Condition	Condition requirement	Response
		<p>3.c.iii. F-35A aircraft operations will be very similar wherever the aircraft is operated. Data being gathered at RAAF Base Williamtown throughout 2019 and 2020 in accordance with the F-35A Noise and Flight Activity Verification Program at Table 1 of the RAAF Base Williamtown BANMP will inform other bases. The ‘Conclusion’ phase of the Program will occur in 2021. In this phase, the measurements of flight activity and noise levels will be analysed and compared to each of the predictions in the EIS to determine whether any potential exceedances have occurred. The response to condition 3.a acknowledges that the F-35A has not operated at RAAF Base Tindal and therefore no comparisons are possible within the BANMP. Comparisons will be provided in the biennial report for 2023 as F-35A operations commence at RAAF Base Tindal. F-35A operations are expected to begin from December 2021 and comparisons will be included in future revisions of this BANMP.</p> <p>3.c.iv. Noise monitoring locations will be reviewed biennially, with the first review in 2023. The review will incorporate confirmation of monitoring locations subject to a change in aircraft noise levels with the introduction of the F-35A. Findings will be compared with those in the Environmental Impact Statement and as such will inform if the monitoring locations are such that they capture representative aircraft noise levels. The review of monitoring locations would also consider track variation in the area, distance of noise monitoring terminals to flight tracks and communities, and how noise levels may vary spatially in the vicinity of noise monitoring terminals and the community.</p>
3.d	If actual measured F-35A Lightning II aircraft noise levels, and flight activity exceed those predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement then corrective action be developed and implemented at RAAF Base(s) and forward operating RAAF Base(s), until an appropriate assessment of noise levels and	<p>Not applicable until the aircraft is flying in the locations.</p> <p>Data gathered at RAAF Base Williamtown throughout 2019 and 2020 in accordance with the F-35A Noise and Flight Activity Verification Program will inform operations at other bases.</p> <p>The ‘Conclusion’ phase of the Program will occur in 2021. In this phase, the measurements of flight activity and noise levels will be analysed and compared to each of the predictions in the EIS to determine whether any potential exceedances</p>

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<b>Condition</b>	<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Response</b>
	flight activity has been reached, as agreed with the Minister.	<p>have occurred.</p> <p>Any potential exceedances will be comprehensively investigated and if confirmed, appropriate corrective measures will be developed and undertaken.</p> <p>Any required corrective measures will be implemented and verified in 2021, with a report, consult, review and update cycle to occur in the 'Ongoing' phase in 2022.</p> <p>Appropriate corrective measures will take into account environmental impact as well as operational, safety and training needs.</p> <p>Corrective actions will be applied until an agreement with the Environment Minister is reached.</p>
3.e	Reporting, to ensure clear and timely public access to noise levels and flight activity monitoring data. This must include but not be limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. conducting a biennial evaluation of the effectiveness of flight activity monitoring and programmes at RAAF Base(s) until agreed in writing by the Minister;</li><li>ii. Annual publication on the Defence Aircraft Noise website of:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. noise levels and flight activity monitoring data of the F-35A Lightning II aircraft; and</li><li>ii. a comparison of actual noise levels and flight activity of the F-35A Lightning II with those predicted in the Environmental Impact Statement. This must include, but</li></ol></li></ol>	<p>Not applicable until the aircraft is flying in this location.</p> <p>There is no Noise and Flight Path Monitoring System (NFPMS) currently at RAAF Base Tindal; however, Defence will establish a NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal by the end of 2021. This will allow the NFPMS to monitor F-35A activity at RAAF Base Tindal. If the timing of a noise event matches the radar track of an F-35A, then that noise event will be attributed to the F-35A and will appear in NFPMS reports. The NFPMS will inform the 2023 F-35A biennial report.</p> <p>3.e.i. Air Force's Aircraft Noise Management Policy commits Air Force to conducting a biennial evaluation of the noise management and monitoring system. Through the Aircraft Noise Management Policy annual reporting process, Defence will compile information and evaluate the effectiveness of flight activity monitoring and programs at relevant RAAF Bases using data provided by the NFPMS. Noise monitoring will be reported as per the NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal.</p> <p>3.e.ii.i. Defence will publish NFPMS reports for RAAF Base Tindal on the Defence Aircraft Noise website at <a href="https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp">https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp</a> and F-35A</p>

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Condition	Condition requirement	Response
	<p>not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. noise management measures;</li><li>b. days and hours of operation;</li><li>c. flight paths used to reduce noise; and</li><li>d. frequency and type of activities that occur at Salt Ash Weapons Range.</li></ul> <p>iii. annual review and update of the Aircraft Noise Management Plan for the first three years following the commencement of the action, and then biennially, unless agreed in writing by the Minister.</p>	<p>specific reports at <a href="https://www.defence.gov.au/AirCraftNoise/Environment/F35EIS.asp">https://www.defence.gov.au/AirCraftNoise/Environment/F35EIS.asp</a>. These reports will respond to conditions 3.c.iii (comparison of actual and predicted noise levels) and conditions 3.d (investigation into the materially of any exceedance).</p> <p>3.e.ii.ii (a); (b); (c). the principals of the Air Combat Group (ACG) Fly Neighbourly Policy which aims to reduce noise impact of fast jet operations within safety and operational requirements will be applied. The BANMP also provides a basis for operations. The NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal will report on the requirements of this condition as relevant to RAAF Base Tindal, including a comparison of actual and predicted flight activity and noise levels. Such reports will be published on the Defence Aircraft Noise website at <a href="https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp">https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp</a>.</p> <p>3.e.ii.ii.(d). Not applicable</p> <p>3.e.iii. BANMPs will be reviewed and updated annually, in accordance with Air Force's Aircraft Noise Management Policy.</p>
3.f	<p>Consultation activities, to ensure adequate communication with stakeholders, including local residents and relevant authorities. Consultation activities must include, but no be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. regular review of communication arrangements with affected stakeholders and communities;</li><li>ii. clear and timely notification of information regarding varied flight activity and future plans, which may impact stakeholders, including but not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. days and hours of operation;</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>3.f.i. RAAF Base Tindal Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) role is to manage whole-of-Defence matters including Defence Assistance to the Civil Community (DACC), community engagement and stakeholder engagement with local residents and local and territory authorities. SADFO RAAF Base Tindal and the Tindal Base Manager do this by meeting with Katherine Town Council quarterly (and as required) to exchange information relating to all matters within the Tindal Base that might impact the Katherine region, including noise and environmental issues. SADFO RAAF Base Tindal or delegate also attend Katherine Town Council Ordinary Council Meetings and Open Forums, where community members can raise questions via the process indicated on Katherine Town Councils website (<a href="https://www.katherine.nt.gov.au/council-meetings/">https://www.katherine.nt.gov.au/council-meetings/</a>). Any actions are captured within the minutes of the meeting. SADFO RAAF Base Tindal manages and reviews community engagement by attending these meetings. Air Force continuously improves its communication arrangements to ensure</p>

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Condition	Condition requirement	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. flight paths; and</li> <li>iii. higher noise events.</li> <li>iii. continued participation at community forums; and</li> <li>iv. development of a concise location specific package of key information related to noise levels and flight activity monitoring data that addresses community concerns in an easily understandable manner for the lay person.</li> </ul>	<p>current and up-to-date information is provided to the community</p> <p>3.f.ii. Initial F-35A operations at RAAF Base Tindal will be promoted via media releases and community engagement activities to promote the beginning of operations for the aircraft.</p> <p>Any large-scale deployments i.e. Pitch Black will have dedicated community engagement activities well in advance of the exercise. This includes community engagement activities and flying program notifications to local residents and a dedicated website.</p> <p>Small-scale exercises and deployments at RAAF Base Tindal will be accompanied by public affairs activities such as media releases.</p> <p>Social media posts will be issued around activities being conducted.</p> <p>RAAF Base and flying program notifications are also conducted as part of standard operations to inform the public of flying activities.</p> <p>Those who submit noise complaints have the option to be added to a local distribution list. In addition they are advised of the Air Force Flying Operation website (<a href="https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity">https://www.airforce.gov.au/operations/flying-operations/flying-activity</a>) and other social media platforms where timely information on days and hours of operation, flightpaths and higher noise events are advertised.</p> <p>3.f.iii. SADFO or representative attend local community forums to advise of upcoming activities where required</p> <p>3.f.iv. Location specific information related to noise levels and operational flight activity monitoring is already available on the <a href="https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Tindal/Default.asp">Defence Aircraft Noise Website</a><sup>16</sup>. Defence will use a NFPMS at RAAF Base Tindal as identified in condition 3.e. The information will be displayed on the <a href="https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp">Defence Aircraft Noise website</a><sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>Any information published will be developed with operational security issues</p>

<sup>16</sup>Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/Tindal/Default.asp>]<sup>17</sup>Webpage link [<https://www.defence.gov.au/AircraftNoise/NFPMS/Default.asp>]

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<b>Condition</b>	<b>Condition requirement</b>	<b>Response</b>
		considered.
3.g	Complaint Handling and Resolution, to ensure enquiries and complaints about F-35A Lightning II aircraft flying operations are received, recorded, reported, responded to and resolved, as defined in the Aircraft Noise Management Strategy	Complaint Handling and Resolution is conducted in accordance with Air Command Noise Management System and applicable paragraphs in this BANMP. Complaints regarding Air Force aircraft noise and flying operations should be made by calling 1300 333 362, and asking to be connected to the nearest RAAF Base, or by submitting an aircraft noise complaint/enquiry form.
3 (condition end note)	The plan must be submitted to the Department for approval. The approval holder must not commence the action unless the Minister has approved this plan	RAAF Base Tindal BANMP to be signed by the SADFO. The RAAF Base Tindal BANMP to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

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