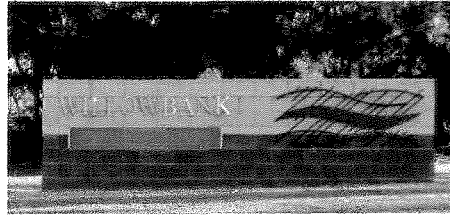
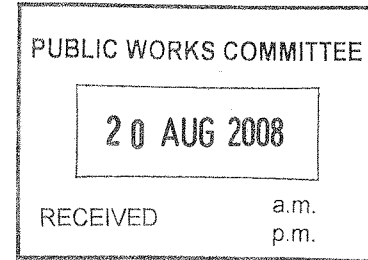


20th Aug 2008



SUBMISSION NO. 3
(Super Hornet Facilities) M.L. 20/08/08
WILLOWBANK AREA (Residents) GROUP Inc.
P.O. Box 36
AMBERLEY Q 4306



PARLIMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE

RAAF AMBERLEY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS – FA-18 ‘SUPER’ HORNETS

RE: RAAF BASE AMBERLEY/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

The coming of FA-18 ‘Super’ Hornets to RAAF Amberley will have an increased impact on the local communities surrounding Amberley defence land holdings. This letter is directed to explain the concerns of Willowbank/Amberley residents.

Willowbank village exists as a close residential community adjoining the south-west perimeter of RAAF Base Amberley. This community *recognizes* the economic value of the RAAF Amberley Air Base activities to our region and we reside in Willowbank with the knowledge and *acceptance* of aircraft flying operations including further base developments and their concomitant affect on our residential amenity.

We in Willowbank enjoy reasonable community amenities inclusive of our local shops, the near location of the Amberley State School, Amberley Community Kindergarten, Amberley Child Care facilities, Amberley Toy Hire Centre, Amberley Playgroup Centre and Amberley Post Office. We choose to live here knowing the nuisance aspect of aircraft and expanding base operations but also realizing that these are integral with the economics of our community.

However, the current expansion plans being undertaken by the Department of Defence on the RAAF Base are undermining the very heart of our community. By taking away the amenities we have all come to rely on, there will be significant impact on us by placing economic hardship on our local shop traders and denying residents and parents the convenient access to our local School, Kindergarten and Childcare facilities.

Closure of the Amberley School and retaining the other facilities within Defence boundaries enforcing the relocation of the school children to ‘other’ areas will directly affect our community as it is unfairly locking us out of these localized community facilities and utilizing them for Defence personnel use only. The ‘petrol dollar’ impact enforced on our families for further travel to relocated facilities would place hardships on most families. We at Willowbank would cease to be integrated community and simply become fringe area dwellers and our property values would be impacted.

Indeed, the Willowbank Area group has inaugurated a Community Grant’s scheme and over the past several years, has granted close to \$30,000 of community monies to Amberley community organizations for their social, environment and structural improvements. These substantial investments will be lost to our residential effort once the Defence boundaries change.

In this respect Defence, as a responsible ‘corporate citizen’ and community neighbour, needs to accept that they have a responsibility of ensuring that we maintain the

current 'status quo' of our community. We are going to be permanent neighbours, so Defence in goodwill, should be actively consulting with this community (thru Ipswich City Council and other Government sectors) to see what reasonable and practical measures can be implemented to ensure the viability of our community and to minimise further impacts where possible *where they do not compromise essential aircraft operations and flight safety.*

Therefore, we implore the Federal Department of Defence, the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training and the Federal Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to ensure that all the facilities currently under threat by the expansions of the RAAF Base Amberley be taken into consideration and be relocated at commonwealth expense for common access convenient to the Willowbank village for the use of the entire community (Defence and Civilian).

There are also 'house keeping' issues.

Currently part of the RAAF Amberley estate (Signed as 'Commonwealth of Australia') aligns O'Neill's Road, Willowbank on the opposite side to that of Willowbank Village residential housing. O'Neill's road is the principal entrance road for Willowbank residents and its presentation, on both kerb sides, defines a statement to the quality of our community.

While it is envisaged that this RAAF property will remain in a natural bushland state to maintain a 'safety' buffer for over-flying aircraft on a south-west departure from the RAAF Amberley cross runway, it has in recent years, been 'poorly' maintained in consideration to it's proximity to residential housing with vegetation overgrowth, a deteriorating rural barb-wire boundary fence and an adjacent broken/unfinished road surface and kerbing.

This community requests that Defence maintain a clean-up of this 'Commonwealth of Australia' land by establishing and maintaining a mown fire break along the boundary fence line and refurbishment of the fence to a presentable residential standard.

This community additionally seeks a Commonwealth Government contribution to funding the asphalt sealing of the RAAF side of the road, inclusive of appropriate kerb and channelling, and the establishment of an open landscaped area on the corner of O'Neill's Road and Ipswich-Rosewood Road, opposite the Willowbank shops, for Willowbank Village entrance presentation and to also allow for passing traffic visibility.

While I have no doubt that there are budget/monetary considerations to funding such a request, I believe that the amount needed to be appropriated for continuing RAAF 'Commonwealth of Australia' property maintenance and contribution to road works along O'Neill's Road Willowbank, would be extremely minimal to overall spending allocated for proposed base infrastructure developments and construction. I also believe that RAAF Amberley Base expansion planning should have included consideration for associated impacts on adjoining civil communities and some funding targeted for Ipswich City Council to maintain the quality of our residential amenity as Local Governments do not receive 'GST' contributions and the Commonwealth does not pay rates on land assets.

We as a community also share a joint concern as to the adequate capability and safety of the highway and road systems that support egress to our area (especially since 9 BASBY Army Units have relocated here). They need immediate upgrading with an injection of Commonwealth funds to ensure duplication of the Cunningham Highway to Amberley base turn-off, better traffic management at this turn-off, improvement to local road infrastructure (Rosewood/Amberley and Walloon Roads) or acceleration of planned Ipswich Western By-Pass Highway.

Acceptance and incorporation of the above requests would provide immense value in consolidating recognition of the Australian Defence Force as a responsible neighbour within our community.

Illustrations supporting the above request are attached.

Yours sincerely,



George Hatchman
President
Willowbank (Residents) Area Group Inc..

NB. As author of this document I give full support to Defence developments at Amberley as I believe I own ownership of the term "Super Base" for Amberley as a consequence of my correspondence to the Minister of Defence re concept back in 1997 (copy of letter attached). I have also been a uniformed member of the RAAF for 45 yrs with commitment to the ideals of the service. This I believe provides me the qualification in my responsibility as the Willowbank community leader to seek an Ipswich Community partnership with Amberley Defence Estate to ensure that we are an integrated community with Defence to the homogenous goodwill and future prosper of our citizens and service personnel alike..

12 JUN 1997

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Telephone: (06) 2777800
Facsimile: (06) 2734118



Minister for Defence

The Hon Ian McLachlan AO MP

Mr Mal Brough MP
PO Box 1883
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

5 JUN 1997

Dear Mal,

I refer to your personal representations on behalf of Mr George Hatchman of 20 Banbury Court, Willowbank suggesting that Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Amberley be considered as a 'superbase', combining both Army and RAAF.

The Department of Defence is currently conducting a review of the location of Australian Defence Force (ADF) airfields and associated infrastructure to develop options for a strategic long term plan for Defence.

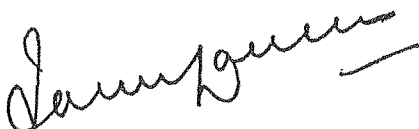
One of the issues for investigation in the Terms of Reference is the potential for, and practicality of, collocation of ADF units.

At this time, all current aviation-related defence locations are being evaluated for their long term contribution to options for developing the Defence infrastructure. These considerations involve, amongst other things, changes in the demography of Australia (distribution and density), changes to airspace availability, and the viability of associated defence infrastructure such as training ranges.

RAAF Amberley is a vital component of the ADF's current defence capability and will remain so for at least the life of type of the current strike aircraft, the F-111.

The location, capability, size and composition of future ADF bases will be dependent upon the Government's assessment of a wide range of factors, but predominantly those involving long term strategic imperatives, the need to structure for war whilst adapting to peace, and the effective and efficient use of resources.

Yours sincerely



IAN McLACHLAN



O'Neil's Road - WILLOWBANK



COMMUNITY NOTICE



ACTIVITY
SAMPLE:
RECENT
COMMUNITY
MEETING

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WILLOWBANK AREA (Residents) GROUP Inc.

GENERAL MEETING

7:00 pm Monday – 18th August 2008

AT AMBERLEY BOWLS CLUB

Please Attend: This is your opportunity to provide an input into the lifestyle amenity of your local community including areas of; Willowbank, Amberley, Ebenezer, Jeebropilly, Mutdapilly, Mt Forbes and Purga (west).

AGENDA for this meeting to include:

1. Outcome/progress of the Community Survey re Willowbank Community Centre.
2. Establishment of a TRANSLINK bus route to Willowbank.
3. Update on Amberley School relocation and community loss of facilities.
4. WAG Inc. Community representation re Defence development issues.
5. Commencement of mains power supply by Ti-Tree Waste Facility to Ebenezer Sub-station.
6. Postponement of WAG Inc. Grants program for 2008 to preserve funds for possible contribution to WAG Inc. proposal for a Willowbank Community Centre.

ENQUIRIES:

George HATCHMAN or **Ian DAINER**
Ph. 54643463 **Ph. 54673393**



Amberley State School
73 Rosewood Road
AMBERLEY Qld 4306

Telephone: 07 5461 5222
Facsimile: 07 5461 5200

20 August 2008

Dear Mr Hatchman
President Willowbank Area Group,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend and address the recent Willowbank Area Group meeting. The students of Amberley State School are thankful for the support from WAG in helping our school camp through sponsorship. It was asked at the meeting to write a letter requesting an amount of money that would help keep our cost down to an affordable level for all families.

If WAG is able to sponsor us to the tune of \$400, this would essentially reduce the cost per student by \$8.50. It was mentioned by the floor at the meeting, that WAG may be able to match the previous sponsorship we had from Boeing, that unfortunately fell through. This was \$500, and would reduce the cost per student by \$10.60. Either amount would be greatly appreciated by our school community, and the 40% of students attending the Girraween National Park Camp who live in the Willowbank area.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Andrew Grant
Year 7 Teacher
Amberley State School

*SAMPLES OF FUNDING REQUESTS
THAT WE SATISFY FOR SUPPORT OR
LOCAL COMMUNITIES - AND WE
ARE ONLY A COMMUNITY
BASED ORGANISATION*

