

C I T Y O F W A N N E R O O

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF ELECTORS
HELD AT WANNEROO RECREATION CENTRE, SCENIC DRIVE, WANNEROO
ON TUESDAY, 18 JUNE 1996

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors:	A V DAMMERS, JP - Mayor, Chairman	Central Ward
	P O HEALY	North Ward
	L A EWEN-CHAPPELL	Central Ward
	S P MAGYAR	Central Ward
	M E LYNN, JP	South-West Ward
	V G HANCOCK	South-West Ward

City Planner:	O G DRESCHER
Committee Clerk:	J HARRISON
Minute Clerk:	S BRUYN

In Attendance

Mr Don Challis - Principal Policy Officer, Department of Transport
Mr Gary Middle - Environmental Protection Authority
Group Captain Dennis Green - Officer Commanding, RAAF Base, Pearce
Mr Iain MacLean - Member for North Metropolitan Region

Apologies for absence were tendered by Crs Freame and Cooper.

An apology for absence was tendered by Mr Eric Charlton, Minister for Transport.

There were 73 Electors in attendance.

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 1930 hrs.

The Mayor introduced Councillors and members of staff.

He advised that the meeting had been called in accordance with the provisions of Section 171(4) of the Local Government Act, in response to a petition of Electors.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed second general aviation airport at Nowergup.

The Mayor advised the meeting that Nowergup was no longer being considered as the second aviation airport and referred to the Press Release from Mr Eric Charlton, Minister for Transport which stated that he had accepted advice and as a result the Nowergup site has been formally withdrawn from any further consideration.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for public question time. Members of the public raised the following questions or comments:

Mr Michael Jenkins, representing Residents Against Nowergup/Neerabup Proposal Group (RANNAG):

- Advised he had two motions prepared for presentation at the end of the meeting and reiterated the Mayor's statement in relation to Mr Eric Charlton's advice that Nowergup was off the agenda as far as an airport was concerned.

Mr Alastair Perrier:

- Requested Group Captain Green to give an answer to the possibility of the airport going to Pearce.

Group Captain Green's response:

Pearce is the busiest airport in Australia for defence purposes, currently conducting pilot training with three operational squadrons working full time there. It would not be feasible to put civil aircraft into this busy environment and also would be very dangerous to put light aircraft into the middle of that degree of activity.

Mrs Liz Prime, 3 Glennon View, Clarkson:

- Advised she was the Labor Party candidate for the seat of Wanneroo for the next State election.
- In relation to a comment made by the Minister for Planning, requested Mr Challis to explain what a reasonable proximity of an airport to the City of Perth would be.

Mr Challis' response:

Believe it is finding a balance between meeting the needs of the general aviation industry and the needs of the community. Have found in the Nowergup site example that the community really don't want an airport in that area, which is approximately 35 kms north of Perth.

Ms Glenda Orris, Two Rocks/Yancheps Residents Association:

- Now that Nowergup is off the board, can we be assured that the whole City of Wanneroo is out of the question or are there other areas being considered further north of Nowergup.

Mr Challis' response:

The Minister for Transport has quite clearly stated that the City of Wanneroo is no longer being considered for a general aviation airport.

Mr John Curd, Quinns Rocks:

- Whereabouts in relation to kilometres north of the Two Rocks township would the Wilbinga site be.

Mr Challis' response:

There has been a site submitted by the Shire of Gingin in that area. It is approximately 8 to 10 kilometres south east of Guilderton.

Mr Curd:

- With a projected population of 118,000 people in the Yancheep/Two Rocks area by the year 2020, those people not living there yet might have an objection to that siting.

Mr Challis' response:

That is quite possible and these issues will need to be looked at.

Group Captain Green:

In reference to the Guilderton site, that is in the middle of Pearce's flying training area and a light aircraft training airfield will be incompatible at Guilderton.

Audrey Hine, Wanneroo:

- Asked if the sites of Wilbinga and Ledge Point were definitely off the map.

Mayor's response:

This is up to the Department of Transport. It had nothing to do with the City of Wanneroo.

- Referred to a study carried out in 1990 and asked what documentation did the City of Wanneroo hold and can this be released to the library.

Mayor's response:

It is the government's responsibility to pick the site and the government has advised in writing that Nowergup was now not on the agenda. Will check with the City Planner now whether this documentation is available.

- It is not the State government but the Federal government who makes the full decision, why are they not represented here.

It is up to the government to make the final decision. There are no intentions for an airport and the City of Wanneroo will work with either the State or Federal government. The information collected to date may have gone to the Federal government but will investigate this.

City Planner's response:

The information within the City of Wanneroo stems from the Department of Transport as part of an evaluation process that was undertaken over the past 6 or 7 years. If the Department of Transport are happy for that information to be released the City of Wanneroo would have no difficulty with this but it was not up to the City to release that information. During the evaluation process all the information was embargoed other than limited information.

The Mayor:

- The Mayor referred to an article in the Wanneroo Times which queried if he had said in 1990 that he had found an ideal position for an airport.

The Mayor said that he had had a pilot's license and would have liked something in the City of Wanneroo but was then referring to a site being looked at in conjunction with a royal aeroclub, not a general aviation secondary airport. This ended some time ago and he has not renewed his pilot's license, so there is no hidden agenda by me or the City of Wanneroo for an airport.

Mr Peter Eyre, Wanneroo:

- Queried the Mayor's statement as he has plans received from the Shire showing Nowergup B as the preferred site.

Mayor's response:

Not a contradiction as this was not done in 1990. The item in the press was before any of that started.

Mrs Michelle Taylor, Pinjar:

- What does the land around an airport normally entail in respect of the development.
- Does Mr Dammers own a property on Lake Pinjar, in the vicinity of an airport.

Mayor's response:

Yes. Has 100 acres of land and he can land an aeroplane on his property with the permission of Pearce Air Base and there is no intention to have an airport.

Mr Challis' response:

Number of reports done over the years in respect of a possible airport. A buffer zone is needed around an airport of compatible land use activity. The Nowergup site was selected because it had quite a bit of compatible land use activity around the area.

Mr Fred Bartholomew, Kinross:

- People who can afford to fly a plane, if keen to have an airport, can utilise other land in Australia.

Mrs Michelle Taylor:

- Compatible land use around airport areas, what does this entail.

Mr Challis' response:

Are you asking in relation to a particular site.

You need compatible land use within certain areas.

Mr Challis' response:

Residential purposes are not compatible near airports. Rural purposes could be compatible, depending on the density. Vacant land, state forest, bush land or commercial activities and industrial could be compatible.

Mr Michael Jenkins:

- What radius do you call compatible. At Nowergup we were looking at 2.2 kms buffer zone.
- What is going on around the Lake Pinjar area as aeroplanes are doing aerial surveys, numbers of trees and surveying being carried out.

Mr Middle's response:

The buffer zone relates to how much noise is generated around an airport and this relates to the number of aircraft that take off and land and the type of aircraft you are dealing with.

If the EPA were to do an assessment of a new airport a computer model is used to generate lines around the airport which indicate what the noise levels could be.

- When was this system set up and how did it come about.
- It came about in 1980, with approximately 3,450 people being interviewed. Medium to heavy density noise would affect 445,000 people. This system is ridiculous as the ANEF system is only based on large aircraft, not small constant noise buzzing aircraft.

Mr Middle's response:

The EPA is aware of the limitations of the ANEF system and so used a complimentary system for the Murrayfield site.

Group Captain Green's response:

There would be general agreement from people present that the airport should be at NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) as no-one wants an airport in their local environment as aircraft noise is very intrusive.

In the focus on selecting a site, one key ingredient overlooked is airspace and the airspace around here is very congested.

I would recommend that the area around Northam and York should be investigated as a future light airport needs to find a compatible area of airspace.

Mr Challis' response:

Believes the air space management problem is a very important issue. The sites examined by the Department of Transport have been examined on the basis that there is an existing Defence Department airspace requirement and those sites have been located on the very edge of that.

Mr Fred Jacobi, Quinns Rocks:

- Recited a letter he had written to the Wanneroo Times in relation to an aviation accident and which recommended sound planning in locating airports at safe distances from populated areas.

Mr Peter Eyre:

- The reason for complaining to Department of Transport and the local Shire is for its non-professional approach and lack of correct consultation.
- Why was Neerabup cancelled as one of the many locations.

Mr Challis' response:

Neerabup site was subject to noise assessment work and it was found at the time that this particular site would have incompatible land uses in critical areas around the airport.

- Wasn't this due to urban development as well in and around the Neerabup site.

Yes, it's to do with residential development.

- Then why did you pick Nowergup, which is exactly the same situation.

Nowergup was considered because with the work already carried out, it was believed there was a chance that that site could have the potential to develop as a general aviation airport.

Mr Russell Anderson, resident of Nowergup

- Planes are flying a grid type pattern over Gibbs Road area and down to Lake Pinjar, also a large number of yellow crosses are being placed on our property and adjoining properties. Is surveying still being carried out.

Mr Challis' response:

Neither the Department of Transport, State government nor anyone else to my knowledge is looking for an airport site in the City of Wanneroo.

No aerial surveying has ever taken place in relation to an airport that the State government has been involved in out here.

Mr Michael Jenkins:

- What is going on in relation to the yellow crosses.

Mr Challis' response:

Absolutely no idea at all. Have had no involvement whatsoever in putting crosses anywhere.

- Mr Mayor, does the City of Wanneroo know.

The Mayor's response:

The City of Wanneroo has nothing to do with it.

Could be DOLA doing annual photography.

Mr John Jambarus, Carabooda:

- Told by surveyors who were putting crosses there that they were for an airport.

Mr Ron Hansen, McLennon Drive, Nowergup:

- The way the site at Nowergup was selected was appalling. Residents have heard rumours since 1993 and I believe information should be more readily available to residents.

- Despite your saying that the Minister has stated categorically that there will not be an airport at Nowergup, things can change.

Mr Colin Brand:

- Has the study to redefine the Priority One zoning boundary concluded and is it true that they can move that boundary.

Mr Middle's response:

The study referred to came out of a recommendation from a select committee report which the government endorsed where it was recommended that the priority areas of public ground water should be drawn on scientific grounds and not cadastre grounds.

One of the conditions the government endorsed was that any change of boundary should not lead to a reduction in the quantity and quality of groundwater available for public use.

- 19 square kilometres have been put into a planning control for the government to eventually acquire for urban development and other government projects. Believe the City of Wanneroo should make some comment on this in the near future.

- **Mr Middle's response:**

Land uses like residential are not compatible with Priority One ground water protection.

Any redrawing of the boundary will be based on scientific grounds.

Mr Michael Jenkins:

- Regarding yellow crosses and surveying, can the Federal Minister for Transport and/or the Federal Minister for Defence override Eric Charlton on this airport issue.

Mr Challis' response:

Eric Charlton will be happy to take this matter up with the Federal Minister for Transport or the Federal Minister for Defence if you wish.

- Commander Green, do you know anything about the Federal Minister for Defence.

Group Captain Green's response:

Quite categorically, Defence is not looking at Nowergup for an airport.

The Mayor's response:

The State government and the Minister of the State government have said they are not looking at a site any more. The commitment is only from this government and will depend on future governments.

The City Planner will investigate the matter of the yellow crosses and will advise anyone who is interested.

Mr Lindsay Nicholson, Gibbs Road, Nowergup:

- Why is Nowergup B not the proposed site. Is public disquiet the only reason it is being taken off the agenda or is there some fundamental reason why it can't be an airport.

The Mayor's response:

This was a political decision.

Mr Iain MacLean, Member for North Metropolitan Region:

- The reason why Nowergup B was disallowed was because it's on a ground water, site too close to controlled airspace and the flight path east would be restricted.

Mr Fred Jacobi:

- Would defence pilots be comfortable knowing they are competing in airspace with new solo pilots who are responsible for communicating with the tower and transponder equipment.

Group Captain Green's response:

Have written to the Minister for Transport and informed him that they are incompatible.

- Would be prudent for the City of Wanneroo to get the top consultants in that area to come up with the facts.

The Mayor's response:

The RAAF have always opposed any airstrip being in the area.

Mr Michael Jenkins:

MOVED Mr Michael Jenkins, **SECONDED** Mr Miguel Castillo that we the Residents against Nowergup/Neerabup Airport Proposal Group (RANNAG) call upon the Wanneroo City Council to prepare a submission rejecting that a second metropolitan general aviation aerodrome or that an aerodrome of any size be established within the precincts of the Wanneroo City Council forever due to:

- 1 safety and noise pollution - flight paths and circuit training will allow low flying aircraft to pass over extensive established residential areas that include schools, child minding centres, aged accommodation and community facilities;
- 2 environmental impact - the proposed site is positioned over the Gnangara Water Mound;
- 3 the proximity to RAAF Pearce will increase the potential for disaster because of shared airspace by slow aircraft and high speed military aircraft. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

MOVED Mr Michael Jenkins, **SECONDED** Mr Miguel Castillo that we the Residents against Nowergup/Neerabup Airport Proposal Group (RANNAG) call upon the City of Wanneroo to write to the Federal Minister of Defence seeking his assurance that RAAF Pearce and Gingin not be used as a joint civil/military or just a civil aerodrome due to the adverse effects it would have on the residents of the City of Wanneroo and also to the Federal Minister of Transport to seek the same assurances. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

There being no further business the Mayor declared the meeting closed at 2028 hrs.

Wanneroo Times 11.6.96



Second General Aviation Airport

The State Government has been working towards addressing the needs of the general aviation industry in the Perth Region and across a broader area of Western Australia.

Part of the process which commenced in 1992 has been to identify possible sites for a second general aviation airport to meet the growing general aviation needs of the Perth Region. Several sites, including one in the Nowergup area, were previously identified as potential options.

Following recent concerns expressed by communities surrounding the Nowergup site, I decided to refer the site assessment process to a special task force of local politicians. This group comprises Hon. Ross Lightfoot MLC, (Chairman), Hon. Iain MacLean MLC, and Hon. Graham Edwards MLC. All are Members for North Metropolitan Region.

This group recommended that I reject the Nowergup site from further consideration.

I have accepted this advice and as a result the Nowergup site has been formally withdrawn from any further consideration.

This means that no other site options within the boundaries of the Wanneroo City Council will be considered for potential development of a general aviation airport.

The group will now focus its attention on two sites in the Shire of Gingin.

ERIC CHARLTON
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

MEDIA STATEMENT**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT****5 June 1998****Second General Aviation Airport**

Nowergup has been formally withdrawn from consideration as the second aviation airport and no other sites within the northern corridor, south of Two Rocks, will be considered for development.

Doug Brindal, Regional Director for the Department of Transport, said the decision followed an investigation by a special task force into work done by Transport on the appropriateness of a Nowergup site. The task force comprises Hon. Ross Lightfoot MLC, Member for North Metropolitan Region (Chairman), Hon Iain MacLean MLC, Member for North Metropolitan Region and Hon Graham Edwards MLC, Member for North Metropolitan Region.

"The group discussed the site's proximity to the Royal Australian Air Force's controlled airspace and the need to improve air safety and airspace management in the Perth Region," he said.

"The Nowergup site is also located on the edge of the Priority One underground management area and flight paths associated with the airport may ultimately have been located over future residential areas.

"The public meeting of the 27 May, although cancelled due to overcrowding, clearly indicated the strong feeling associated with this site."

Mr Brindal said concern with Nowergup was generated by a belief the site would have negative impacts on surrounding and outlying communities. These issues would have been brought to light in the process initiated by Transport.

"It is a priority for the state government to address the needs of the aviation industry and part of that process is identifying possible sites for the second general aviation airport," said Mr Brindal.

"A detailed environmental review and public consultation process focusing on three sites at Nowergup, Wilbinga and Ledge Point was initiated to provide information to government on their suitability.

"However, the depth of community reaction prompted Eric Charlton to set up the task force ahead of schedule to investigate concerns with the result that Nowergup has now been withdrawn."

The group will now focus its attention on two sites at Wilbinga and Ledge Point and any other sites considered worthy of further investigation.

"Transport will continue to address the wider needs of the aviation industry through its involvement in developing targeted regional centres for pilot training. Clearly airports of this type can have significant economic benefits to local communities if appropriate planning occurs."

Open days planned for Woodridge on 9th June, Quinns Rock on 15th June and Ledge Point on 16th June have been postponed. Details regarding future public consultation will be made available in the near future.

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29/05 '96 13:53

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MIN/TRANSPORT --- TRANSPORT

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MEDIA STATEMENT

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

One of the northern suburbs identified as a possible site for a second general aviation airport has been ruled out.

Transport Minister, Eric Charlton said today he had accepted a recommendation from the Ministerial Taskforce that Nowergup be removed as a possible site.

The search to identify a site for a second general airport has been carried out since 1992. Twenty seven sites were looked at and this was narrowed down to three sites at Nowergup, Wilbinga and Ledge Point.

After residents near the Nowergup site voiced strong opposition to the airport, Mr Charlton set up a three member taskforce of North Metropolitan Region Parliamentarians to review the issue.

Chairman Ross Lightfoot said the committee had taken into account the feelings of the local residents and it was a unanimous decision to recommend to the Minister that the Nowergup site be ruled out.

Contact: Sally Squires, Office of the Minister for Transport, 321 7333