

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee

23 November 2023

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Minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held in the Alpine Helicopters Boardroom, Wānaka Airport, State Highway 6, Wānaka on Thursday 23 November 2023 beginning at 1.00pm

Present

Mr Rob Phillips (Chair), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager Property & Infrastructure, Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC)), Ms Juliet Breen (Airport Manager), Mr Andrew Crawford (Commercial Airlines – via Teams), Mr Jon Brooks (Airways Corporation – via Teams), Mr Simon Telfer (Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Chair).

In Attendance

Mr Quintin Howard (Property Director, QLDC), Mr Jon Winterbottom (Governance Team Leader) and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor)

Opening Karakia

The opening karakia was presented by Ms Breen.

Apologies

There was an apology from Mr Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group).

It was agreed that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee accept the apology.

Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

On the motion of Mr Telfer and Mr Avery it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee confirm the minutes of meeting held on 4 September 2023 as a true and correct record.

Motion carried.

1. Wānaka Airport Manager's Report

A report from Juliet Breen presented the following information about Wānaka Airport:

- a. Aircraft Activity
- b. Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents
- c. Complaints Register Summary (incl. noise and operational complaints)

d. Operational Report (incl. Environmental Effects, noise, fuelling and fire)

Ms Breen advised that much of the report's content had been based on information contained in the Queenstown Airport Manager's Report along with any other requirements specified under the designation. She was open to any further suggestions around further content.

The chart of Wānaka aircraft movements showed a marked difference between current levels of activity and pre-COVID levels. There was a gap in June 2023 because an inversion layer had covered Wānaka for much of the month preventing any flying and the situation had also continued into the first week of July.

There was considerable further discussion about the summary of noise complaints. Ms Breen noted that most of the complaints showing in the report were not at the airport itself but in one of the surrounding townships. They were outside the airport boundaries but she was happy to reach out to discuss the events with the personnel involved.

Members considered the value of complaints being described in greater detail and reported back to the committee, the aim being to give members a better understanding of complaints and the staff response.

It was moved (Mr Telfer/Mr Brooks):

That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee request that further detail of all complaints associated with Wānaka Airport is provided for Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee until further notice.

Motion carried.

Ms Breen set out the mitigation and plans for fuelling and fire. She noted that the BP pump should have a spill kit and BP had been advised of the need to address this omission. One thousand litres of water was held at the airport for fire-fighting which was a satisfactory temporary solution but the airport was awaiting a more fulsome solution with water to be supplied to the airport and tanks were soon to be installed beside the NASA building.

On the motion of Mr Avery and Mr Brookes It was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report.

Motion carried.

2. Noise Monitoring at Wānaka Airport

A covering report from Juliet Breen introduced noise monitoring at Wānaka Airport and appended the 2022 Wānaka Airport Compliance Monitoring Report completed by Marshall Day Acoustics in September 2022. There was a statutory requirement to manage noise and a full monitoring report was required every two years. The September 2022 report had found that noise was within the appropriate levels.

**On the motion of Mr Telfer and Ms Breen It was resolved
that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee:**

1. Note the contents of the report.

Motion carried.

3. Report from the Queenstown Lakes District Council

A PowerPoint presentation from the Property & Infrastructure team of the QLDC presented information about the Aeronautical Study (Part A) and the Aeronautical Study Recommendations (Part B).

Mr Howard presented the report. He noted that the capital and operational figures were still a work in progress and had not yet been added to the LTP. They represented however, the current understanding of officers of what works were required at Wānaka Airport in the immediate and more distant future.

The following key points were noted:

- In 2022, the QLDC had received a letter from the Civil Aviation Authority ('CAA') asking for an aeronautical study to be undertaken to determine the level of operational risk at Wānaka Airport.
- Wānaka Airport was a busy airport with a large number of movements (albeit with small aircraft) and was deemed a non-certificated aerodrome under the CAA. The recommended works would result in Wānaka Airport moving to certification as a qualifying aerodrome and were needed to allow the airport to continue to operate as at present.
- The timeframe for implementation was currently unknown but would be agreed with CAA and was likely to occur over at least a 24 month period.
- The recommended works were not focused on growth but may result in enabling growth. They were works QLDC needed to complete to take good care of the asset, to meet operational requirements and to increase safety. Whilst they may provide for the future, they did not represent an expansion.

- There was an expectation that the Council should cover its own costs. In addition to rates funding, there were four potential revenue streams at Wānaka Airport: Leases; carparking fees; landing fees; aircraft parking. With modest changes, Wānaka Airport could become cost neutral to QLDC.
- Consultation about proposed works would be through the LTP and there would also be consultation about any future operational changes at Wānaka Airport.

**On the motion of Mr Telfer and Mr Crawford It was resolved
that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee:**

- 1. Note the contents of the report.**

Motion carried.

4. Review of Work Programme

Mr Avery confirmed that the 2024-34 Long Term Plan (LTP) did not currently contain projects that could be deemed a Master Plan for the Wānaka Airport. There were however a number of initiatives from the operational plan that the QLDC needed to complete at Wānaka Airport as a responsible landlord (as detailed in the previous item) and these would be consulted through the LTP.

5. Confirming date and location of next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, 29 April 2024 in the Alpine Helicopters Boardroom, Wānaka Airport, State Highway 6, Wānaka on Monday 29 April 2024 beginning at 1.00pm.

Following a closing karakia, the meeting concluded at 2.30pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

CHAIR

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee

23 November 2023

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As P. L. W.

29/4

DATE