

12 June 2024
Property Director
Queenstown Lakes District Council
10 Gorge Road
Queenstown, 9300

Dear Quintin,

23/139/41 - Proposed Qualifying Aerodrome Certificate Determination – Wanaka Airport.

Thank you for the submission of the Wanaka Airport Aeronautical Study Part A, dated 6 March 2023, provided under Civil Aviation Rule (CAR) Part 139.21.

The Aeronautical Services Unit has completed the safety review of Wanaka Airport, including a technical assessment of the Aeronautical Study, and consideration of all requirements detailed in CAR 139.23(b)(1).

In accordance with CAR 139.23, I wish to advise that the Director of Civil Aviation (DCA) proposes to determine that Wanaka Airport operated by Queenstown Lakes District Council is a qualifying aerodrome.

If it is finally determined that Wanaka Airport is a qualifying aerodrome, then, pursuant to CAR 139.5A, the airport may not operate without a qualifying aerodrome certificate.

Reasons for the Proposed Determination

The Director has reached a provisional view that the level of risk to aviation safety at Wanaka Airport is such that it must be managed under the authority of a qualifying aerodrome operator certificate.

In arriving at its initial conclusion, the CAA has considered the following evidence:

- (i) The Airport Aeronautical Study produced by Quality Aviation Consulting.
- (ii) Consultation with aerodrome stakeholders.
- (iii) Safety Performance information including movement and incident data.

Aeronautical study outcome

The aeronautical study identified 10 key credible risks which resulted in 15 recommendations including that QLDC seek certification for Wanaka Airport as a Qualifying Aerodrome under CAR Part 139.

Consultation

CAA has consulted with tenants of the aerodrome, the Wanaka Airport User Group, the Queenstown Milford Users Group, Airways, Aviation Federation, NZ Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Gliding NZ, AOPA, Aviation NZ, Air New Zealand, NZ ALPA and NZ Airports Association through this process.

Before determining whether Wanaka Airport is a qualifying aerodrome, the Director is also required, under CAR 139.23(b)(2) to consult with the aerodrome operator to:

- (i) Determine if the aerodrome operator can mitigate or eliminate any identified risk to aviation safety; and
- (ii) Determine whether, if the actions identified under subparagraph (2)(i) are taken the risks to aviation safety will be managed to a level at which no determination will be required.

QLDC has been engaged through the aeronautical study process and have not identified any actions that would sufficiently mitigate the risks to aviation safety, however we welcome your submission in that regard.

If you consider there are other parties or aviation participants that the Director should consult, please advise.

Your response

I look forward to any input you may wish to provide and would be grateful to receive this within 21 days of this letter.

If you do not wish to comment further, the Director will finalise the determination.

Yours faithfully

Paul Tench

Paul Tench
Technical Specialist
Aeronautical Services