

# Minutes

<b>Subject:</b>	Meeting of the Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Group	
<b>Location:</b>	Meeting held in Person and via Microsoft Teams	
<b>Date:</b>	03 September 2024	
<b>Members Present</b>	<b>In Person:</b> Rachel Devine, Independent Chair Ben Levesque, Auckland Airport Heather Haylock, Community Representative Kylie Higgs, Auckland Airport	<b>Via "Teams":</b> David Wong, Auckland Council Fiona Lai, Puketāpapa Local Board till 1.30pm Geoff Hounsell, Airways Corporation from 1.47pm Helen Futter, Community Representative Jack Tan, Albert-Eden Local Board Mark Allen, Waitakere Local Board from 1.39pm Mark Easson, Community Representative Patrick Whelan, BARNZ Tauanu'u Nick Bakulich, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board
<b>In Attendance</b>	<b>In Person:</b> Jeremy Lo, Auckland Airport Mark Laurenson, Auckland Airport Stephanie King, Marshall Day Acoustics Steve Hardwick, Auckland Airport Steve Peakall, Marshall Day Acoustics	<b>Via "Teams":</b> Karl Taylor, Airways Corporation (alternate)
<b>Members of the Public</b>	Nil	
<b>Apologies</b>	Councillor Alf Filipaina, Auckland Council Debbie Burrows, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Malcom Bell, Franklin Local Board Maria Meredith, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Troy Churton, Ōrākei Local Board	

**1. Opening Karakia, Kylie Higgs**

**2. Independent Chair's Introduction and Welcome**

The Independent Chair declared the meeting opened at 1:04pm.

Chair acknowledged mana whenua and joined them in grief for the late Māori King. She acknowledged past Chairs and their work and the work of all members of the Group. The Chair expressed gratitude for the service to the community and the support for the work of the Group by Garth Wyllie, Industry Representative, who died on 22 August 2024.

The Chair provided an outline of her connection to the whenua that the airport occupies, gave a flavour of her work background and experience with designations and compliance, monitoring and enforcement. She also set out her expectations for the Group and her role. The Chair stressed that the Chair role is independent of AIAL and Council. She acknowledged the Group's function as a conduit for community noise issues and potential difficulties that members of the Group may have in upholding the Group's Code of Conduct to have an open mind to the views of others. She said she will endeavour to foster a cooperative, respectful environment so that communities can be empowered to get the information they need to engage in discussion about aircraft noise and those with noise information can convey it effectively.

Tauanu'u Nick Bakulich thanked the Chair for her comments and acknowledged the sentiments expressed about the Māori King, particularly in the absence of mana whenua.

**3. Apologies**

Apologies as listed on cover page 1 of these minutes were noted and accepted. Quorum was confirmed.

**4. Public Forum**

The Chair noted that no requests were received from the public to speak at or to observe the meeting.

**5. Minutes of Meeting Held on 10 June 2024**

No issues with the minutes were identified. Kylie Higgs moved, and the Chair resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 circulated as part of the Meeting Pack be confirmed as true and correct.

The Chair proposed that the Group's historical process of publishing the minutes be altered. Instead of publication on the website after they are confirmed three months after the meeting, they will be published after one month as unconfirmed minutes until confirmed at the subsequent meeting. The existing process that provides Members with a month to provide feedback on draft minutes will be maintained. The Group discussed the proposal and members supported it, noting it would help community members access information earlier.

**Action:** Auckland Airport to publish minutes to the website as "unconfirmed minutes" after the Group's one-month review period, and to do the same for all future meetings.

**6. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

Jeremy Lo spoke to internal discussions with the AIAL Customer Service Team on item 9 in the Matters Arising paper circulated as part of the Meeting Pack. Members were concerned that an internal review of the noise complaint process by AIAL may not be a robust review. Kylie Higgs requested that the matter arising item be left open for further consideration.

**Action:** Jeremy Lo and Helen Futter discuss ways to review the noise complaints process before the next meeting. Auckland Airport to provide a further update at the next meeting.

There were no further questions or comments.

## 7. Identification of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair spoke to her proposal relating to maintaining the Code of Conduct and identifying conflicts of interest. That:

- A Conflicts of Interest Register be created and included in the Meeting Pack
- A check of conflicts become a standing agenda item and at that time (or earlier) Members self-identify any conflicts of interest relating to this meeting's Agenda.
- There be a record of each Member agreeing to the Group's Code of Conduct.

The Chair requested of each Member present in person and on-line to state if they have any conflicts of interest relating to Agenda items for this meeting, all attendees responded that they have no such conflict.

**Action:** Auckland Airport to create a Conflicts of Interest Register and circulate it to Members so that it is appropriately populated before the next meeting.

Auckland Airport to ensure that Conflict of Interest are a standing Agenda item.

Auckland Airport to confirm with each member that they agree to comply with the Group's Code of Conduct and include a record of each confirmation in the next Meeting Pack.

## 8. Terms of Reference Update

Kylie Higgs spoke to the extended timeline aspect of the memorandum for this item needed because some input sought had yet to be provided. David Wong noted that since the Meeting Pack was provided, Council had submitted its feedback to Auckland Airport.

The Group discussed difficulties with turning around work in January and February next year due to workloads and annual leave. Kylie Higgs acknowledged that the timetable was flexible and will likely continue to evolve.

**Action:** Auckland Airport to provide an update on progress at the next meeting.

## 9. Annual Noise Mitigation Programme Report

Mark Laurenson introduced himself and spoke to the Noise Mitigation Report. He added that after the Report was circulated to the Group, there had been an additional 2 pre-inspections, 6 offers and receipt of 2 signed offers (one of which has Charitable Trust funding). The contents of the Report were noted.

Discussion ensued about ways to get more residents to take up the offer of noise mitigation. A few ideas were identified (like a library drop-in, increasing payments for MANA residents, and getting a PhD student to investigate). There was an openness and curiosity about new approaches to this problem. It was agreed that there should be a separate session on the topic to generate more ideas.

*[At this point (approx. 1.39pm), Mark Allen arrived on-line and at 1.47pm Geoff Hounsell arrived on-line; the Chair gave them both a summary of discussion to this point, questioned them on any conflicts of interest item (there were none) and they introduced themselves.]*

The Chair thanked Mark Laurenson for his report and the Airport's openness to exploring new ideas.

**Action:** Before the next meeting Auckland Airport will organise a group discussion to generate ideas about ways to increase the uptake of noise mitigation package offers. Group Members and non-Members will be invited.

Auckland Airport will report back on the discussion at the next meeting.

#### **10. Quarterly Aircraft Noise Report Overview and Flatbush Noise Levels Report**

The Reports from Marshall Day Acoustics (MDA) were noted. There were no questions on either report.

Mark Easson observed that he gets complaints when there are arrivals from the west (ie, over the city).

The Chair thanked MDA for their attendance.

#### **11. Draft Financial Year Annual Noise Management Report**

Jeremy Lo spoke to the use of Chrome to enable translations for complainants using the on-line system, the re-deployment of monitors and the Airways flight path proposal.

The reliance on Chrome was noted by the Group. Jeremy Lo noted that no work is being done to allow translations through other means because of Casper says that would require significant coding effort. There was discussion about ways to enable non-English speaking people to know that they must use Chrome.

Mark Allen suggested that the ability for complainants to benefit from translations could be shared by AIAL with the community, e.g. by social media posts. This would, in turn, promote access to these translations.

*[At a later point in the meeting Jack Tan queried if it would be an improvement if a link to the complaints system could be added to the Council website.]*

- Actions**
1. Auckland Airport (Jeremy Lo) to ask CASPER about including better instructions in the complaints system about available translations and the mechanism, and report back to the Group.
  2. Auckland Airport (Ben Levesque) to consider communicating the translation tools to the public to highlight their availability.
  3. Auckland Airport (Jeremy Lo) to explore adding a link to the complaints system to the Council website and update the Group at the next meeting.

#### **12. Airways Verbal Update on the Concept Flight Path Changes**

Geoff Hounsell referred to the update to the last meeting about the proposed new flight path to amend Night Star from the west creating new noise above Awhitu peninsula at 10,000 feet. He noted that its characteristics are being documented now, with a chart expected in 2 weeks. He said they would circulate the chart before the next meeting and consult with users. He shared his aim for the new procedure to be published within the February 2025 world-wide publication cycle.

When questioned, Geoff Hounsell clarified the time each evening the change would officially occur at was 1am, but that this means in practice arrivals from around 12.30 am. He also explained that the

arrivals are typically routed over the southern path and not over the city unless there were specific weather-avoidance occasions. He offered to verify any specific flight concerns identified.

The Chair thanked him for his verbal update.

### 13. Proposed Noise Reduction Initiative Runway 05

Kylie Higgs addressed the memo on this Agenda item, noting that MDA says the initiative will reduce noise levels and be within compliance contours. Community Representatives expressed appreciation for the initiative. The Chair thanked Kylie Higgs for her update.

### 14. Any Other Business

Jeremy Lo referred to the Work Plan in the Meeting Pack. He said that he would add the brainstorm meeting (see Agenda item 9 notes above) to it. There were no questions or comments on the Work Plan.

Tauanu'u Nick Bakulich alerted elected members of the Group that he would not seek re-election when his term on the Auckland Community Trust ends around April 2025. The Chair thanked him for his early notice of the vacancy. Kylie Higgs indicated that a documented process for the appointment of a member to the Auckland Airport Community Trust would be produced.

**Action:** Auckland Airport to draft a process for the appointment of a member to the Auckland Airport Community Trust in consultation with Tauanu'u Nick Bakulich.

*[A link to a complaint process from Council website was addressed at this stage of the meeting and is recorded under item 11 in these minutes, together with an associated action.]*

Mark Allen shared that he and Bruce Kendall were considering ways to help people who couldn't pinpoint noise sources; they know of a West Auckland person who can't identify a particular noise. Steve Peakall shared that sources of low-frequency noise can be extremely hard to pinpoint and could travel from long distances. In response to questions, it was noted that there is not a collective of infrastructure companies focused on noise issues, just a national airport group.

There being no other business, the Chair closed the meeting with Karakia from Kylie Higgs.

**Meeting closed:** 2.43pm

**Next meeting:** 09 December 2024