

Annual Noise Mitigation Programme Report

2021/2022



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Introduction

Auckland Airport is required to manage and mitigate the effects of aircraft noise generated by its operation. Condition 10 of Auckland Airport Designation 1100 sets out the requirements for how Auckland Airport should manage the effects of aircraft noise through the implementation of a Noise Mitigation Programme.

Auckland Airport monitors the implementation of the Noise Mitigation Programme. The purpose of this report is to provide the Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Group (“ANCCG”) a collated annual update on the implementation of the Noise Mitigation Programme for the past twelve months being July 2021 to July 2022.

COVID-19’s Effect on the Programme

Programme put on hold and new response plan developed

Following the COVID Response Plan developed in July 2020, the Noise Mitigation programme was put on hold as Auckland entered into Level 4 COVID Alert level in August 2021. This meant that the September Stage 2 offers, which had been planned to be sent out in September 2021, were not made.

The programme remained on hold until Auckland while it remained at Level 4 COVID Alert Level in December 2021 and no property scopes or installations had occurred since August 2021.

New Zealand then introduced the Traffic Light System by mid-December 2021, and a new COVID-19 Response Plan was developed by Auckland Airport to align with it. The Noise Mitigation programme currently operates under this new response plan and will do for as long as the Traffic Light System remains. The Response Plan is shown below:

COVID-19 Response Plan (2021)

With the introduction of the “COVID-19 Protection Framework” by Government in December 2021, the Noise Mitigation programme is proposed to operate under the following procedures at each traffic light setting

Setting	Activities
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scopes and installations may occur in occupied properties provided proof of full vaccination can be provided by all eligible residents of the property (NZ Pass Verifier App will be required)* - PPE must be worn at all times - QR Codes/Manual Tracking Sheets must be prepared and scanned/completed by all present - Only one contracting company may be inside the property at any one time to ensure social distancing can be achieved
Orange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As per Red above however multiple contractor companies may be inside the property at any time
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scopes and installations may occur in properties of unvaccinated residents provided the property is unoccupied during the period of works - PPE must be worn when inside the property - QR Codes/Manual Tracking Sheets must be prepared and scanned/completed by all present

**All contractors working must also be fully vaccinated*

Figure 1 – 2021 COVID-19 Response Plan

Under this Response Plan, the Programme was able to recommence under the Red and Orange settings. There was a very minor backlog of installations and these were quickly responded to once the Programme recommenced.

Smaller Noise Contours

Due to the on-going impact of COVID-19 on the aviation industry (and despite the projected rapid recovery), forecasted aircraft movements remain well below 2019 levels. This has meant that again the 2022/2023 Annual Aircraft Noise Contour (“**AANC**”) is significantly reduced in size. As the AANC ultimately determines which properties are eligible for an annual offer from Auckland Airport, its decreased size means that there were no eligible properties for the 2022/2023 annual offer of noise mitigation packages. This is because no properties (being residential properties built before December 2001) were forecast to be exposed to sufficiently high enough noise levels to warrant an offer from Auckland Airport. Despite this, Auckland Airport has again decided to make annual offers to properties which are located in the Future HANA noise contour. Auckland Airport considered it very important that the Programme continues, and its benefits be available to the community.

However, with the borders reopened and aviation recovers, Auckland Airport considers that if actual movements exceed the forecasted movements over two consecutive quarters, Auckland Airport will review the AANC and, if any properties would fall within the revised contour retrospectively, and that property did not already receive an offer in the last 12 months, then Auckland Airport will make an offer to any such property now within the revised contour. This offer will remain valid for twelve months from the date of the offer was made.

Annual Offers

As the September “Stage 2” Offer was unable to be made in 2021 due to lockdowns, Auckland Airport has kept the offers made in the March 2021 valid until the 2022/2023 Offer is made.

The 2022/2023 Offer is to be made in September 2022 to 147 properties (29 tenanted) that are located within the Future HANA. While it was proposed that the offer would be made in August 2022, Auckland Airport had decided to review the branding of the Noise Mitigation Programme which includes developing designs for the offer letters and community posters. These are currently being finalised to be able to make the offer in September 2022.

Community Information Sessions will be held in late September.

Improvement Initiatives

Targeting Tenants

Auckland Airport now send offer letters directly to the eligible property address as well as the property owner – this should assist in increasing tenant’s awareness of the Programme.

A Community Awareness Campaign

Auckland Airport remain committed to raising awareness of the Programme within the community. As a result, an awareness campaign has been developed and implemented as part of the 2022/2023 Offer and includes:

- Improving the look and feel of the offer envelopes with Auckland Airport branding and messaging so to better entice recipients into opening the envelope;
- Placement of community notices in places such as churches, schools and community halls;

- The development of social media posts which will be posted prior to and after sending out the offers. These posts will also be able to be shared by any Local Board/Auckland Council’s social media accounts as necessary.
- More consistent branding across the various collateral for a more cohesive “look” of the Programme – this includes branding offer letters, community posters, social media posts, brochures and emails for increased continuity and enhanced public perception.

Making Community information Sessions better available to the public

Previous community information sessions were by invitation only (only those who had received an offer from Auckland Airport could attend). However, in the last three years there has been a relatively low attendance at these sessions and it not exactly clear what the cause of this is.

For the 2022/2023 Offer, the community information sessions will be held in a different location which is more public and accessible. This will provide the opportunity not just for eligible homeowners and tenants to ask questions about the Programme but for the wider community too, which should raise the overall level of awareness of the Programme and increase uptake over time as more properties become eligible while the aviation industry recovers and the AANC expands.

Auckland Airport will also look to potentially trial a “Virtual Community Information Session” via Microsoft Teams to broaden accessibility to the sessions and is currently assessing its options. The session will be available for eligible homeowners to access online or via telephone to ask any questions they may have about the Programme. Details of how to access this session will be included in the offer letter.

Website Revamp

Auckland Airport is currently in the process of improving its website so that it is more user-friendly and key information can be easily found by the public. A key part of this is making it far easier to get information on the Noise Mitigation programme, how to apply and who to contact.

Overall Programme Summary

The following table provides an overall summary of the number of pre-inspections, offers accepted, covenant registrations and installations which have occurred of the last twelve months (July 2021 – July 2022):

Table 1: Overall Programme Summary

Pre-Inspections	7
Offers Accepted	14
Covenants Registered	22 (3 currently awaiting registration)
Installations	20 (12 HANA & 8 MANA)

