

**Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee**

**18 November 2024**

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on Monday 18 November 2024 in the Armstrong Room, Lake Wānaka Centre, Wānaka beginning at 11.10am**

**Present**

Mr Rob Phillips (Independent Chair), Mr Simon Telfer (Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Chair), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Property & Infrastructure, QLDC), Mr Todd Grace\* (Queenstown Airport – via Teams), Mr Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group)

**In Attendance**

Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Democracy Services Advisor)

**Opening Karakia**

An opening karakia was presented by Mr Phillips.

**Apologies**

Ms Juliet Breen (Queenstown Airport), Mr Jon Brooks (Airways New Zealand) and Mr Andrew Crawford (Sounds Air). \*Todd Grace (Queenstown Airport) attending in place of Ms Breen.

**It was moved (Mr Phillips/Mr Grant):**

**That the apologies be accepted.**

**Motion carried.**

**Confirmation of Agenda**

The agenda was confirmed with the addition of a discussion regarding the future direction of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee (WALC).

**Confirmation of minutes**

**It was moved (Mr Grant/Mr Telfer):**

**That the minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on 29 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**Motion carried.**



**1. Wānaka Airport Manager's Report**

A report presented by Todd Grace (on behalf of Ms Breen) discussed the following about Wānaka Airport:

- a. Aircraft Activity
- b. Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents
- c. Complaints Register Summary (including noise and operational complaints)
- d. Operational Report (including environmental effects, noise, fuelling and fire)

Members noted the increasing traffic at Wānaka Airport following the peak movements recorded in 2019 and agreed that the level of traffic supported the move towards Wānaka Airport obtaining a Qualifying Aerodrome Operator Certificate although it would remain technically an 'unattended' airport. It was noted that those unfamiliar with Wānaka Airport may not be aware that it was unattended.

Members questioned the 276 landings from Tarras but it was noted that this represented one aircraft making multiple landings.

There was discussion about removing 'Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents' from the report as none currently occurred. However, it was observed that this was one of the Terms of Reference under which WALC had been established and it should therefore remain in place as an item reported on.

**It was moved (Mr Avery/Mr Grant):**

**That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the report.**

**Motion carried.**

**2. Wānaka Airport Projects Update**

Mr Avery spoke to the report provided in the agenda.

Aircraft movements

August 2024 aircraft movements were down, largely because there had been an inversion layer on most days that month over Wānaka.

Landing Fee Changes

The grass runway needed to be fixed because it was rough at present and also because it was safer for some aircraft to land on grass.

The development of a contingent runway was noted. Citing the need for more revenue, members supporting increasing landing fees annually and exploring other potential revenue opportunities (e.g. introducing parking charges).



**It was moved (Mr Avery/Mr Telfer):**

**That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the Council report.**

**Motion carried.**

**3. Wānaka Airport November Update**

There was discussion about change management processes to ensure that the needs of users were considered alongside the introduction of the new requirements needed as a Qualifying Aerodrome because some of the previous freedoms would change.

Part B of the Aeronautical Study, which addresses airspace issues, will not be reviewed by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) until a Master Plan for Wānaka Airport is in place. There was further discussion about introduction of a mandatory broadcast zone against which there had been strong feedback from the para-gliding and hang-gliding communities for whom such a requirement was difficult to fulfil.

It was noted that a procurement process was currently underway to seek a company to deliver the independent Wānaka Airport Future Review.

**4. Update on recent correspondence**

It was noted that the financial information provided was of a general nature and not in detail.

Revenue streams from NASA were discussed and Mr Grade explained the way in which they were reported separately in the financial records of Wānaka Airport and Queenstown Airport. He considered it unhelpful to conflate the issues and read something into the records that was not there.

The view was expressed that although cognisant of the commercial sensitivities, NASA revenue all should go to Wānaka Airport and there would be value in convening a meeting of interested parties in early 2025 to discuss the detail.

**5. Other matters**

**Future direction of the WALC**

There was discussion about how members considered the WALC was going and ways of adding value to meetings. There was general agreement that meetings had been of limited value to date but this meeting had considered more meaningful matters and members were excited that QLDC seemed to be preparing to engage with the Upper Clutha community on the future of Wānaka Airport.



**6. Confirming date and location of next meeting**

Monday, 7 April 2025 at 11.00am in the Alpine Helicopters Board Room, Wānaka Airport.

**Closing Karakia**

Ms Robertson presented a closing karakia.

*The meeting concluded at 12.13pm.*

**Confirmed as a true and correct record:**



**CHAIR**

17 / 4 / 2025  
**DATE**