

**Minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on Monday 29 September 2025 in the Wānaka Airport Alpine Helicopters Boardroom, beginning at 11.00am**

**Present**

Mr Rob Phillips (Independent Chair), Ms Juliet Breen (Queenstown Airport Corporation - QAC) Mr Simon Telfer (Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Chair) and Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Property & Infrastructure, Queenstown Lakes District Council -QLDC).

**In Attendance**

Mr Paul Speedy (Strategic Project Manager, QLDC) and Ms Georgia Pringle (Democracy Services Advisor, QLDC)

**Karaka Tīmatanga (opening karakia)**

An opening karakia was presented by Mr Phillips.

**Apologies**

Mr Jon Brooks (Airways Corporation) was an apology.

It was noted that Mr Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group/Deputy Chair) and Mr Andrew Crawford (Sounds Airs) have resigned from their respective roles, therefore are no longer part of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee (WALC) or the committee.

**Confirmation of Agenda**

Mr Phillips confirmed the agenda, noting that the resignations of Mr Grant and Mr Crawford, and discussion of the future of WALC would be discussed in Item 5 - Other Matters.

**Appointment of New Deputy Chair**

The Committee agreed that Mr Telfer would be the new Deputy Chair.

On the motion of Mr Phillips and Mr Avery it was **agreed** that Mr Telfer be appointed the new Deputy Chair of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee.

Motion was **carried** unanimously.



**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the motion of Mr Avery and Mr Telfer it was **agreed** that the minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on 7 April 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record:

Motion was **carried** unanimously.

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

The report was presented by Ms Breen.

In response to a question, Ms Breen advised that it is difficult to get consistent data to do an accurate forward projection as movement has been so inconsistent in the last 12 months. Ms Breen noted that movements will decrease by approximately 100 per year with the loss of Sounds Air.

Ms Breen advised the current action for QAC is to become CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) certified. Ms Breen noted that an Airport Manager is required to achieve the certification, and that QAC are currently recruiting for this role.

Mr Telfer asked about the gap in movement between 2019 and 2025. Ms Breen advised there were various aspects affecting the movement but noted that flight schools were a lot busier in 2019 compared with 2025, however New Zealand is starting to become attractive again for flight training schools.

On the motion of Mr Avery and Mr Telfer it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee **note** the report.

Motion was **carried** unanimously.

**2. Wānaka Airport 2024 Compliance Monitoring Report**

Ms Breen presented the item and took the report as read.

On the motion of Mr Avery and Mr Telfer it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee **note** the report.

Motion was **carried** unanimously.



3. Wānaka Airport Projects Update (from Queenstown Lakes District)

The report was presented by Mr Avery.

Mr Avery noted that Roger Davidson (Property Director, QLDC) was the report author and took the report as read.

On the motion of Ms Breen and Mr Telfer, it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Committee **note** the report.

Motion was **carried** unanimously

4. Wānaka Airport Planning Process Update

The report was presented by Mr Paul Speedy (Strategic Project Manager, QLDC).

Mr Speedy noted that there had been fantastic community engagement with the community consultation about the future of Wānaka Airport. Mr Speedy also advised that Egis are currently collating the feedback to provide a report but noted that themes that have arisen are concern of overtourism and lack of sufficient infrastructure.

Mr Speedy advised that once Egis have collated the feedback, it will go to the incoming Council to workshop and start planning potential scenarios for the airport, noting it will provide a 20-30 year outlook.

WALC members commented on the success of the consultation, noting that having specific scenarios for people to engage with was very helpful. As per the WALC Terms of Reference, WALC members noted they continue to give support to the credibility and success of the community engagement.

On the motion of Mr Telfer and Ms Breen it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee **note** the report.

Motion was **carried** unanimously.

5. Other Matters

There was discussion of the resignation of Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group). It was noted that there is yet to be a replacement for Don and QAC are supporting the Airport Users Group to find a new Chair and Deputy Chair.



There was also discussion of the resignation of Andrew Crawford (Sounds Air), noting that Alpine Wānaka, Wānaka Helis, You Fly and End Zone are potential sources for a replacement for a new commercial airline representative for WALC.

There was brief discussion about the role of WALC once the new airport plan starts progressing, noting this is something the incoming Council may assess in the new triennium.

Mr Telfer requested the release of the financial statements for the Wānaka Airport over the last 12 months. Mr Avery agreed to release them and the Committee agreed to add them as an attachment to these minutes - see **Attachment A** included in these minutes.

On the motion of Mr Telfer and Ms Breen it was resolved that the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the other matters discussed.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. Confirming Date and Location of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee was confirmed to be held at 11am on Monday 16 February in the Alpine Helicopters Boardroom at Wānaka Airport.

#### **Karakia Whakamutunga (closing karakia)**

Ms Breen presented a closing karakia.

*The meeting concluded at 12.08pm.*



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Confirmed as a true and correct record:

  
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CHAIR

16/2/26  
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DATE