



**Minutes of the Queenstown Airport Liaison Committee held by Video Conference
Tuesday 22nd February 2022**

Present: Jane Taylor (Chair)
 Glen Sowry (QAC CE)
 Rachel Tregidga (QAC GM Property & Planning)
 Melissa Brook (QAC Strategic Planning Manager)
 Lee Summer, The Building Intelligence Group (TBIG)
 Meggan Bain (QLDC)
 James Stokes (General Aviation) (from 6.30pm)
 Greg Miller (Community Representative)
 Patrick Whelan (Airline representative, BARNZ)

Apologies: Steve Mclsaac (Community Representative)
 Jon Brooks (Airways)

1. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 6.18pm. The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and declared the meeting open.

2. Residents to Address QALC

There were no residents wishing to address the meeting.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes from the Queenstown Airport Liaison Committee on 21 November 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

3a. Actions and progress status from this and previous meetings

Date Raised	Action	Response	Status
2019/20	After new representation on the Committee is finalised, noise training sessions will be organised, which would also be open to all members. Rachel to action.	Ongoing	Open
2019/20	QAC to progress the real estate agent training initiative (info pack and evening). Rachel to action	Ongoing	Open

May 2021	QLDC have been requested to start the recruitment process for the two vacant community representative positions. Lake Hayes Community Association have expressed interest in providing members, this has been forwarded to QLDC for action.	Ongoing	Open
August 2021	QAC to annex list of affected property owners who have chosen not to take up mitigation measures to future QALC agendas, only including new refusals within the Work Plan.	Ongoing	Open
August 2021	Airways to provide data for all air traffic movements within the Controlled Area.	Ongoing	Open

4. Standing Agenda Items

4.1 Aircraft Activities

Rachel took the meeting through the report, noting the impact of the Auckland lockdown on flights and the increase from mid-December when Auckland came back on-line. It was noted that load factors were low and QAC was anticipating an uncertain period over the next few months due to the impact of Omicron. Airlines were cancelling flights and it was noted that we had a 30% reduction in selling schedule over the last six weeks.

Rachel noted that Helicopter landings were high in December and the committee noted that this could be partially explained due to the cherry drying operations undertaken in December and January.

Rachel noted that Fixed Wing landings were very low compared to prior years and that this could be attributed primarily due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.2 Unplanned engine testing

There were no unplanned engine testing incidents to report for the period.

4.3 Complaints register summary

One complaint was received since the last meeting and Melissa gave a brief overview of the complaint. The Committee was advised that the complainant had decided not to attend the meeting. The nature of the complaint was further discussed under operational reports item 5.1.

Melissa advised that following the dissemination of the agenda two further complaints had been received. They were being investigated by the Operations team and would be reported on at the next Committee meeting.

5. Operational Report

The operational report was taken as read.

5.1 Helicopter departures pre-6am

The committee discussed QAC's position. It was determined to endorse the position that protection of crops be included as an emergency operation, and the requirement that these operations be self-reported by the operator undertaking the flight when it occurs outside of the 6am – 10pm operating hours.

5.2 Noise contours update

Rachel advised the committee that it is anticipated 2021 compliance contours will be available at the May Committee meeting.

5.3 QALC Community Representatives

Melissa noted that post the preparation of the agenda, correspondence had been received from the Chair of the Lake Hayes Community Association, indicating an interest from members to fill the community representative role. This information has been passed on to QLDC to continue the appointment process. QLDC have been requested to complete the process to fill both the Lake Hayes and Frankton community representation positions.

5.4 Noise Mitigation Programme – General Update

Lee took the committee through the Dashboard and made the following general comments:

- In the prior period we have completed the selection of the mechanical contractor and now have the core team to move into the next phase;
- We have formally followed up with all homeowners previously visited in person;
- The Presbyterian Support Services retirement units have had surveys carried out and designs are currently being peer-reviewed
- There are 7 further properties in the survey phase where homeowners have shown some interest
- There are ten property owners who we have been unable to get contact with through home visit or mail. Lee will now try and establish phone contacts or email addresses to directly contact these homeowners.
- We are beginning to undertake homeowner visits to the properties eligible over the next two calendar years to increase interest in the programme.

6. General Business

6.1 Pre- 7am flights

Rachel informed the Committee that Queenstown Airport's operating hours are 6am until 10pm however, to ensure that we continue to operate in a socially responsible manner and consider the impact on our neighbouring communities, QAC has determined that, at this time, it will constrain any arrivals or departures prior to 7am.

Arrivals or Departures between 6am and 7am will only be permitted by prior arrangement with the General Manager – Operations and Safety and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Noise generated by aircraft prior to 7am has a significant impact on compliance with permitted noise boundaries, so any request for authority to arrive or depart prior to 7am will need to be supported by evidence of essentiality. This position will be monitored on an ongoing basis. The operations and protocols for emergency flights is not impacted, including the emergency operations discussed under item 5.1 above.

The Chair requested that the Committee be kept apprised of any issues that arise with this approach.

6.2 General update

The Committee was advised that private jets were to be permitted to travel from Australia to Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch Airports upon the opening of borders with Australia, but at this time Queenstown Airport has been excluded. It was noted that the Government will look to include Queenstown when traveller health declarations go live (anticipated March 31st).

The Committee noted that network planners are moving their fleet to northern hemisphere routes, and this will have an impact on New Zealand airports and traffic volumes.

Glen advised that traffic volumes were the lowest that they have been in over 20 years at Queenstown Airport.

7. Date for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 31 May 2022, commencing at 6.15pm.

The meeting closed at 6.51pm.