

Minutes

Subject:	Meeting of the Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Group	
Location:	Meeting held in Person and via Microsoft Teams	
Date:	10 June 2024	Time: 1:02pm – 2:43pm
Members Present	In Person: Catherine Harland, Independent Chair Ben Levesque, Auckland Airport Geoff Hounsell, Airways Corporation Helen Futter, Community Representative Kelvin Hieatt, Papakura Local Board Kylie Higgs, Auckland Airport Malcom Bell, Franklin Local Board Mark Easson, Community Representative	Via “Teams”: Councillor Alf Filipaina, Auckland Council Bruce Kendall, Howick Local Board Cath O’Brien, BARNZ Fiona Lai, Puketāpapa Local Board Garth Wyllie, Industry Representative Heather Haylock, Community Representative Maria Meredith, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board (till 1.55pm) Mark Allen, Waitākere Ranges Local Board Troy Churton, Ōrākei Local Board (till 1.40pm)
In Attendance	In Person: Jeremy Lo, Auckland Airport Mark Laursen, Auckland Airport Stephanie King, Marshall Day Acoustics Steve Hardwick, Auckland Airport Steve Peakall, Marshall Day Acoustics Yvonne Gumbo, Auckland Airport	Via “Teams”: David Wong, Auckland Council Karl Taylor, Airways Corporation (alternate)
Members of the Public	Nil	
Apologies	Andrea Marshall, Auckland Airport Joe Glassie-Rasmussen, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board (alternate) Nicholas Lau, Auckland Council Tauanu’u Nick Bakulich, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board Scott Milne, Ōrākei Local Board	

1. Opening Karakia, Kylie Higgs

2. Introductions and Apologies

The Independent Chair declared the meeting open at 1:02pm.

Apologies; as listed on cover page 1 of these Minutes. The apologies were noted and accepted.

3. Public Forum

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

4. Minutes of Meeting Held on 11 March 2024

No discussion and changes.

The Chair moved and the ANCCG resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 be confirmed as true and correct.

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Jeremy Lo spoke to the following items in the Matters Arising paper:

- **Item 1** – Surveying past complainers (refer to “Status” column of the Matters Arising paper, adding that he had asked Casper to comment on their other clients’ experiences, all of whom found the system “efficient”).
- **Item 6** – Chair recruitment (refer to “Status” column, adding that candidate interviews will be in last week of June, update to come at following Meeting).
- **Item 7** – Ōrākei and Waitākere Ranges Local Board DMAPS meetings (A memo summarising feedback on the Missed Approach Procedure presented to both Local Boards had been circulated. Both Local Boards visited were “very supportive” and they would be following up with Auckland Airport on best ways to inform their own communities).
- **Item 10** – Casper Noise Lab proposal (refer to “Status” column, adding that if it is to be considered, it would need to become part of the future FY26 budget process- **Action**).

Mark Allen suggested in relation to Item 7 that more social media content / tiles would help in a wider context than just DMAPS, as a source of wider information for people about their experiences of noise in the community. There were no further questions or comments.

Mark Allen moved the memo "Missed Approach Procedure presentation to Ōrākei and Waitākere Ranges Local Boards and Communications Plan" be received and the ANCCG agreed.

6. Outgoing Chair’s Reflections

Catherine Harland spoke to her memo “Chair Reflections” circulated as part of the Meeting Pack. The document records initiatives progressed during her 5 years in the position covering Air Management, Noise Mitigation, Complainant and General Information, ANCCG Operations and Future Work, Observations and Opportunities. A non-exhaustive list of persons who have contributed to the overall progress over that time is also included.

The Chair indicated the work undertaken was the result of issues being raised, particularly by Local Board and Community Representatives, and progressed through a collaborative approach with the air industry and technical agencies. The outcome being improvements for the wider community in relation to information, understanding, complaint handling, monitoring and aircraft noise mitigation.

The Chair also drew members attention to the “Glossary of Terms” (a copy of which was also circulated as part of the Meeting Pack). It was an initiative she had suggested, done the work to develop and would be a useful resource for future members with iterative reviews now underway. Members were invited to suggest additions by using “Tracked changes” and/or emailing the ANCCG Secretariat.

The Chair alerted members to many points in the Reflections memo intended as areas for future work or consideration by the Group.

Mark Allen expressed warm thanks to the outgoing Chair for her “great work” and contribution to the Group over the last 5 years.

Mark Allen moved the recommendation set out in the memo and the ANCCG agreed.

That members of the ANCCG receive the report of the Independent Chair and note:

- (a) the initiatives progressed over the last five years;
- (b) areas for future work; and
- (c) opportunities to progress initiatives for Auckland and lifting information and practices within the wider network of airport consultation groups.

Action – [not discussed or agreed to by the members, but AIAL will undertake to place the Glossary document into the formal company document control system, to preserve it and its history as a “living document” going forwards, thus becoming subject to regular formal content reviews].

7. 3-Yearly Terms of Reference Review Process

Jeremy Lo spoke to the memo “Review of Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Group Terms of Reference” and summarised the purpose of the memo and the proposed timeline for all steps in the review process.

Mark Easson; it seems “a long process”. Helen Futter; had AIAL had initiated the task? Kylie Higgs; the review was optional but to review the ToR “is best practice”.

Helen Futter; noted that one proposal had not progressed owing to lack of budget, but this initiative would also cost AIAL time and money? Kylie Higgs advised that this task would use existing resource and staff time, so would not require any additional budget.

Mark Allen and Troy Churton; wish to give their Local Boards an opportunity to review the ToR. David Wong; indicated that had not been considered and he would discuss with his team (who would be carrying out the groundwork to review the ToR). He proposed two methods for Local Board input, preferring a memo rather than a formal Report to Boards (Mark Allen; agreed a memo is preferable). General discussion (including via on-line chat function) arose about the timing for the proposed memo, with 31 July agreed upon as the deadline for Boards to submit responses.

The Chair invited any current feedback from attendees, and received the following:

- Malcolm Bell; current quorum requirement wording “in the room” must be altered for new technology to be accounted for, eg, “...and via on-line meeting technology” or similar.
- Helen Futter; wording related to advertising media is currently limited to two specific publications and must be phrased in much wider terms.
- Bruce Kendall; raised the issue of persons with heightened noise sensitivity. The Chair indicated that was better addressed during Agenda item 8.

With no further suggestions, the Chair advised members to email in their early thoughts on changes and updates to the ToR and reminded members that drafting would occur with report backs enabling progressive development.

Actions:

1. David Wong and Jeremy Lo to draft an appropriate memo for Local Boards.
2. Memo to be circulated promptly to Local Boards and to specify a July deadline date by which Boards’ feedback must be received by AIAL.

8. Quarterly Noise Mitigation Programme Report

Mark Laurenson, Environmental Planning Manager Auckland Airport, introduced himself and the purpose of his wider team, and singled out and spoke to various key points in the “Noise Mitigation Programme Report April 2024 – June 2024”. The following points were additional to the content of the Report:

- Additional numbers for Table 1 were given verbally that have occurred since the Report was written.

- The targeted on-line advertising campaign has led to a spike in enquiries from 17 to 84 for the period.
- A video presentation format for lawyer training was considered, but a written 'how to guide' document was decided upon as being effective for lawyers.

Helen Futter; pleased with the “spike” in enquiries, but requested rather than “mitigation”, a better-known word be used (Heather Haylock; suggested “lessen” via on-line chat function), and that the wording overall be simplified to suit the widest possible population base.

Helen Futter; was the “video” in fact for the “case studies” suggestion from a previous meeting? Kylie Higgs; there were two separate “video proposals”; one a Legal Covenanting Guide and the other a post-installation Case-study. Mark Laurenson; a case-study video may be better suited for “this time next year”; by then there will likely be sufficient willing candidates to appear in such a video.

The Chair thanked Mark Laurenson for the “positive initiative” and returned to Bruce Kendall on persons with heightened noise sensitivity. Bruce Kendall; experienced “very loud” overflights at a recent tree-planting event at Mission Heights School, with generally high noise levels over Flatbush and surrounds (Mark Easson; agreed re Flatbush noise levels); can cheaper temporary noise measuring devices be deployed at properties of persons with heightened noise sensitivity?

Mark Laurenson; expressed reservations over the “subjectivity” issue in this area. AIAL already provides higher support than strictly required by legislation. Steve Peakall; there would be additional calibration issues for such devices.

Mark Allen; AIAL had not answered with a solution, citing a noise-sensitive person in his own area. Kylie Higgs; AIAL has no resource to do investigations relating to individuals, instead it looks for systemic issues indicated via multiple complaints; to do otherwise would require both good reason and budget approval. Mark Allen; are there “other ways around this” like independent Council mechanisms? Bruce Kendall; could Council deploy cheaper temporary noise measuring devices? Helen Futter; a report to the Group by a Professor more than five years ago was the original source of information on persons with heightened noise sensitivity, and legislation is not designed to cover such exceptions to the “norm”.

The Chair; the meeting had not reached a practical solution, could Mark Allen and Bruce Kendall take this offline and report back to the Group if they develop any further insight or specific proposals.

Actions:

1. *[not discussed or agreed to by the members, but AIAL will undertake to place the Legal “How To” Guide document into the formal company document control system, to preserve it and its history as a “living document” going forwards, thus becoming subject to regular formal content reviews].*
2. Mark Allen and Bruce Kendall to discuss the heightened noise sensitivity issue and report back to a subsequent meeting if they see fit.

9. Quarterly Aircraft Noise Report Overview and Questions

Stephanie King, Marshall Day Acoustics (MDA) spoke to the first slide (“Q1 Report Summary”) in the Report.

Heather Haylock; Figure 31 [pg 39]; the blue “Flatbush lines” at 65+ LA_{max} event numbers seem high and potentially disturbing; should we look at these for future noise contours for mitigation purposes (Kelvin Hieatt; agreed Flatbush noise levels seem an “outstanding amount”; Mark Allen; what would the normal course of action be for anecdotal high noise levels supported by actual data)?

Kylie Higgs and Steve Peakall; yes we are happy to investigate and report back (Kylie Higgs; this is not an undertaking that a monitor would be placed there). Note re Fig 31 - Flatbush is on the MANA, while East Tamaki and Beachlands are located well outside the Aircraft Noise Areas.

Kelvin Hieatt noted a noisy, low flying incident affecting Papakura-Conifer Grove on 9 June. Initial Airways investigations have occurred in relation to the flight path and weather conditions.

The Chair; thanked MDA for the item and supplementary memo in relation to 2023 Q4 Nov-Jan queries.

Action – MDA and Auckland Airport to liaise and report back to the Group on Flatbush noise levels.

10. Annual Review of Noise Monitor Locations

Jeremy Lo spoke to key points in the memo “Annual Review of Noise Monitor Locations”.

Mark Allen; are there any timing details of the proposed South Titirangi noise monitor [*referred to as numbered item 2 on page 4 of the memo*]? Jeremy Lo; one month before DMAPS and Kylie Higgs advised DMAPS goes live on November 29th 2024.

Malcom Bell and Helen Futter were supportive. Helen Futter raised the Prices Road monitor positioning and commented that the Temporary one is no longer exactly on the HANA boundary and queried if that is an issue. Steve Peakall referred to the Designation and the noise monitor locations with reference to the HANA. Several locations were considered, taking into account any future developments that may add to the noise levels. The location of the Temporary Prices Road Noise Monitor slightly inside the HANA is suitable as the monitor does not need to sit exactly on the HANA boundary. The temporary monitor will eventually become the permanent one, once the existing Prices Road monitor is removed. The historical data will be retained and used.

The Chair thanked Jeremy Lo and Steve Peakall (MDA) for the memo, and the Group noted its contents.

11. Annual Review of Current and Future Noise Reduction Initiatives

Jeremy Lo; every June the Group considers and discusses current and future noise reduction initiatives for input to the Annual Report. Jeremy Lo then passed to Geoff Hounsell of Airways to present some concept ideas that addresses Matters Arising Item 2 -reassess late night/early morning central city overflights. Geoff Hounsell spoke to an Airways slide presentation describing a proposal to shift certain flights over parts of the harbour (thus away from residences), and in particular noting:

1. Proposal diagrams are at “concept stage” therefore do not include proposals for specific flight heights at any waypoints.
2. The Amended Night STAR from the West adds 6 nautical miles, applies to arrivals after 0130 and before 0600 and can cater for “noisy cargo flights”. It will not be changed further as it involves “separation’ issues.
3. Mark Easson; What about the Sydney flights? Geoff Hounsell; It would include Sydney flights that arrive after 0130 and before 0600.
4. Slides showed examples of existing flights departing on Runway 05R. It was noted there is a current restriction in place for large aircraft to stay on the defined track during all night flights. A change will enable the Tower to issue instructions for larger aircraft heading west to turn earlier and climb over the Manukau Harbour reducing overflying of residential areas.
5. The proposal would be switched to occur at a set time daily.
6. Airline consultation is the next requirement and formal proposal thereafter.

The Chair and Mark Easson; The concept development shows the ANCCG can make a difference, and it was “especially encouraging” to Mark Easson in light of his determined and repeated advocacy towards this very issue. The Chair; reiterated that at this stage this is a proposal only, and will require all parties’ input.

Action

1. Airways to consult with affected airlines and other identified stakeholders if any and report back to the Group at the next meeting with a formal proposal.
2. Work with AIAL to remove the larger aircraft restriction.

12. Missed Approach Procedure Change - DMAPS

Kylie Higgs spoke to the memo “Plane Sense correspondence received 6th May 2024”. She stressed that the Wellington circumstances are quite different to Auckland, and requested questions.

Mark Easson; has had to use this procedure perhaps “5 or 6 times in 30 years of flying around the world; 2 or 3 of those were at Wellington; none were at Auckland”. Airways confirmed the use of the missed approach process is very rare at Auckland; due to terrain differences between the 2 cities.

As there were no further questions or comments the Chair thanked Kylie Higgs for the “fulsome response”.

13. Work Plan and Any Other Business

The Chair noted ANCCG Manurewa Local Board member Anne Candy's recent King's Birthday Honour to be a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and local government.

Mark Allen raised that a member of the public in his area has interest in the ANCCG community representative role. The Chair advised that as per the Terms of Reference the opportunity is timed for every 3 years and coincides with local body elections (unless earlier vacancy due to resignation).

Kylie Higgs; on behalf of AIAL, gave thanks to the outgoing Chair for her 5 years of service and the "Reflections" document presented at this meeting. As a result of her efforts, she leaves the Group in "a very good space" [*Kylie presented the Chair, Catherine Harland with flowers and a cake*].

Alf Filipaina spoke on behalf of the Auckland Council Governing Body to thank the outgoing Chair for her thorough and professional contribution which has resulted in "steady progress" for the Group (with Troy Churton and Maria Meredith also giving thanks via the meeting Chat function).

There being no other business, the Chair thanked members, wishing them well and closed the meeting with karakia.

Closing Karakia by Kylie Higgs

Meeting closed: 2.43pm

Next meeting: 9 September 2024