Attachment A: QAC SOI 2020/22 (Version received by Council in June 2019)





**Queenstown Airport Corporation Ltd** 

# Statement of Intent

30 June 2019

# Contents

Introduction	3
About Us	3
Situational Overview	5
Forward Planning	7
Purpose and Priorities	8
Priorities and Performance Metrics	9
Summary of Key Strategic Projects	13
Financial Forecast FY2019-2022	14
Shareholder Interaction and Corporate Governance	16
Services Provided to QLDC	18
Wanaka Guiding Principles	18
Strategic Alliance with AIAL	19
Audit	19
Accounting Policies	19
Corporate Directory	20
Abbreviations	21

## Introduction

As a Council-Controlled Trading Organisation, Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) is required under Section 64(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 to prepare an annual Statement of Intent (SOI) for Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) before the start of each financial year. The SOI sets out the strategic priorities that QAC intends to achieve or contribute to for the next three years as well as its activities and budget for the next financial year. The SOI takes shareholder comments into consideration and provides performance targets for organisational accountability.

## About Us

#### **Queenstown Airport Corporation**

QAC is considered an 'Airport Authority' under the Airport Authorities Act 1966 and is required under this legislation to operate and manage its airports as commercial undertakings, including carrying out improvements where necessary.

QAC was incorporated in 1988 and since then has been responsible for the management and development of Queenstown Airport, striving to deliver an operationally safe and efficient airport with world-class facilities and an outstanding customer experience that reflects the best of the region.

In 2009, QAC was engaged by QLDC to manage Wanaka Airport's day-to-day operations. After a public consultation process in 2017, QLDC granted QAC a long-term lease for the management, planning and future development of Wanaka Airport. The 100-year lease commenced on 1 April 2018.

QAC also provides property maintenance services at Glenorchy Airstrip on QLDC's behalf. In 2018, QLDC and QAC agreed in principle that, subject to agreeing appropriate terms, QAC would provide a broader range of management services at the airstrip. QAC is a founding member of the Glenorchy Airstrip Consultative Governance Committee.

QAC comprises approximately 70 staff who reside across the Southern Lakes region and represent diversity in all forms, including age, gender, sexual orientation, nationality and work experience. The current female/male ratio is 50:50 in senior management and 47:53 across the QAC team.

The Company is governed by an independent Board of Directors and owned by two shareholders:

- 75.01% by the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC); and
- 24.99% by Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL)

#### **Queenstown Airport**

With a rich heritage dating from 1935, Queenstown Airport is today New Zealand's fourth busiest airport. The airport is a strategic national and regional asset which contributes to the vibrancy and prosperity of New Zealand's economy, its tourism sector and the regional communities served by the airport. More than 60 businesses and 700 people work across the airport precinct providing a broad range of services.

The airport provides a domestic and international entry point to Queenstown, one of the world's premium visitor destinations, and direct access to the Southern Lakes region which is home to some of New Zealand's most iconic scenery and experiences.

Residents and visitors, domestic and international alike, have access to daily air services to/from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, as well as direct trans-Tasman services to east coast Australia through the ports of Brisbane, Coolangatta, Sydney and Melbourne. Auckland and Sydney airports are the major international hub airports for long-haul travel.

Queenstown Airport is also a base for various general aviation activities, including flightseeing and other commercial operations, search and rescue, life flights and other emergency services. It is New Zealand's busiest helicopter port and a popular choice for private jet customers who reside in or visit the region.

#### Wanaka Airport

Wanaka Airport is a general aviation airport with nearly 300 people working across 11 businesses. These include flightseeing, flight training, helicopter maintenance, skydiving, private recreational aviation and attractions. Since 1988, Wanaka Airport has been the home of the Warbirds over Wanaka air show. In 2015, the airport joined a select group of NASA global test sites for its scientific space balloon programme.

#### **Company Value**

As at 30 June 2018, QAC's land, land improvements and buildings were valued at \$332 million and included 137.6ha at Queenstown Airport and 282.4ha around Wanaka Airport. QAC's estimated enterprise value, as adopted by its Board of Directors in June 2018, was in the range \$466 million to \$483 million. This valuation was supported by an external valuation by Northington Partners.

## Situational Overview

Worldwide demand for air travel continues to grow, with the International Air Transport Association forecasting that the number of airline passengers will reach 8.2 billion in 2037 based on a 3.5 percent compound annual growth rate.

New Zealand has never been better connected globally and while it is considered a niche visitor destination due to its remote location, the effects of several consecutive years of significant residential population growth, increasing domestic travel and strong international visitation are now being felt across the country. Visitor growth has been primarily driven by increases in domestic and international air capacity, competitive pricing and New Zealand's reputation as a beautiful, safe and friendly destination which offers world-class experiences. The Southern Lakes region in particular is considered an attractive place to live, work and play with strong visitor demand and a residential population that is growing at a higher rate than most of the rest of the country. Businesses, large and small, are also investing in expanding and diversifying their product offerings. Tourism remains the primary business sector in the region and over the past year various tourism operators have announced major expansion plans of more than \$200 million. A further \$900 million worth of infrastructure projects which support tourism are also underway, particularly in Queenstown.

Queenstown and Wanaka airports are part of a national network of critical infrastructure assets which connect residents and visitors to the Southern Lakes region. QAC is responsible for managing these strategic assets on behalf of its two shareholders to ensure they are financially viable and sustainable, generate appropriate returns on assets, and contribute to the region's economic development and the wellbeing of its communities.

We are conscious of the need to manage future airport growth in a manner that is consistent with our sustainability framework and that adheres to our guiding principles of sustainable, adaptable, affordable and memorable. Our ongoing work with, and support of, the communities across the Southern Lakes region is underpinned by a mindfulness of our social licence to operate and a commitment to social, economic and environmental sustainability through the Company's sustainability framework which guides our thinking in this space. We are committed to being a good neighbour and working with others to align long-term planning initiatives, address destination infrastructure constraints and find solutions to local social issues.

The feedback we received from our regional communities and other stakeholders on the master plan options and the proposed changes to the current air noise boundaries for Queenstown Airport over the past 18 months has been helpful in informing our future development plans. We recognise that this work cannot be done in isolation and requires close and constructive engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, including our communities, business sector, airport communities, staff, shareholders, airline customers, government, and iwi. As we progress the master planning for Queenstown and Wanaka airports, we will continue these conversations and consider the outputs of other planning initiatives to ensure alignment. We will also continue to work closely with the airports in the broader region, including Invercargill and Dunedin airports, to explore joint opportunities in a broad range of areas, including health, safety and security; operations; sustainability; and supporting strategic regional tourism initiatives.

Ultimately, we aim to bring the long-term planning for Queenstown and Wanaka airports together to present a dual airport model ("two airports, one airport company"), which will support and provide value to the communities we serve. This planning will establish a roadmap for future airport growth, including infrastructure development, noise planning and transport connectivity. It will also complement regional planning for transport, accommodation and other infrastructure developments and ensure alignment with QLDC's long-term vision and district-wide spatial planning processes.

With regard to transport connectivity, we continue to focus on airport-specific initiatives to enhance customer choice, such as using technology to create an innovative and stress-free carparking experience and providing infrastructure for electric vehicles to help reduce our carbon footprint. As an active member of the Regional Transport Governance Group, we are also working closely with QLDC, ORC and NZTA on short, medium and long-term solutions to improve regional transport connectivity and will continue to look at alternative transport options to help move our customers throughout the region. These include infrastructure, public transport, mass transit options, and demand management solutions that encourage a shift towards more environmentally-considerate transport modes and lower reliance on private vehicles.

Ongoing investment is needed in the short to medium term at Queenstown Airport to maintain and expand terminal infrastructure and enhance the customer experience. A key priority over the next two years will be working with our airport stakeholders to deliver a significant programme of initiatives, called Project Pathway, which will improve resilience and increase capacity within the current terminal footprint to provide for a modest level of growth.

We will need to manage growth to ensure compliance with our noise boundaries, which we expect to reach within the next three years. We have increased the frequency of our noise monitoring programme and are working closely with our airline customers to manage the rate of growth via flight schedules and route planning. Over time, capacity will be constrained at Queenstown Airport if the noise boundaries are not expanded, with the expected effects being more limited flight choices and other changes in commercial behaviour.

Recent market trends and insights indicate that there are headwinds for New Zealand's aviation and tourism sectors. We are therefore taking a prudent approach by moderating our forward growth rates compared with prior trends. We are also working closely with our partners to monitor these trends so that we can adapt quickly and effectively in any business environment.

## **Forward Planning**

As a demand-driven public transport infrastructure business, QAC will continue its long-term planning and appropriately invest in infrastructure ahead of the curve to maintain the highest levels of safety, efficiency and customer service. We have an obligation to provide infrastructure to support the demand for air services created by those who live in, work in and visit the Southern Lakes region now and into the future. This demand is forecast to continue over time which underlines the importance of Queenstown and Wanaka airports to residents and visitors alike. We will update our demand forecasts at regular intervals to ensure that we are adaptable to changes in our business environment.

Our master planning for Queenstown and Wanaka airports will provide for increased levels of demand at both airports over the 30-year planning horizon. This long-term planning work began for Queenstown Airport in 2016 and has been progressing since that time, including community and stakeholder engagement on master plan options and consultation on proposed changes to noise boundaries over the past 18 months. For Wanaka Airport, our master planning work began with community workshops and online engagement in May 2018 and detailed planning started in September 2018. This work is currently in progress with a number of activities underway. We expect to complete both master plans in late 2019 and share them together to show how the two airports will work together under a dual airport model through phased development out to 2045. The dual airport model provides for integrated management, operations, processes and systems, while allowing each airport to maintain its own unique identity reflecting the communities it serves.

We are planning for a gradual, phased development at each airport to meet forecast natural demand from both residents and visitors. The master planning approach for Queenstown Airport is focused on expanding the current terminal infrastructure, rather than building a wholly new terminal. It will continue to support domestic and trans-Tasman services using turbo-prop and narrow-body jet aircraft. The planning will also provide for some expansion to the current noise and land boundaries.

At Wanaka Airport, the proposed master plan approach supports the development of a regional airport to enable scheduled domestic services from approximately 2025. We expect a handful of such services operated by turbo-prop and narrow-body jet aircraft at the start and for several years thereafter in-line with demand. This planning approach is consistent with QLDC's aspiration to have scheduled services reintroduced at Wanaka Airport through the long-term lease to QAC. This aspiration was further confirmed by the conclusion of the "Shaping Our Future" Upper Clutha Transport Taskforce report in May 2017 which recommended that Wanaka Airport be developed.

We plan to continue to enable the diverse range of general aviation activities and events currently at both airports. However, we are not planning a large international airport or to accommodate wide-body aircraft at either airport.

As we continue to shape the master plans for Queenstown and Wanaka airports, we will seek insights from the long-term planning initiatives currently being undertaken by QLDC, particularly the district-wide spatial planning processes with its growth forecasts for both residential population and visitors to the Southern Lakes region. These insights will be critical to ensure that the master plans for Queenstown and Wanaka airports appropriately align and integrate with the broader district-wide spatial planning processes.

We will also actively encourage feedback from the community and other stakeholders through a variety of engagement channels. To this end, we have developed an integrated engagement plan that will ensure all stakeholders, including the community, are kept informed of our planning activities and offered opportunities to provide us feedback.

## **Purpose and Priorities**

Connecting people through our infrastructure and helping to sustain the Southern Lakes region is at the heart of our business. Everything we do to achieve this is underpinned by our core values and guiding principles.

QAC as an organisation has grown, particularly over the past five years, to support the rapid growth across the communities we serve. With the responsibility for managing and developing both Queenstown and Wanaka Airports, it is critical that QAC's organisational structure effectively supports the dual airport business model.

As we work through the master plans for Queenstown and Wanaka airports, we will be looking to integrate all aspects of our business, with the aspiration that the airports managed by QAC are recognised as innovative and representing the best of their regional communities. This reflects our desire to be:

- Innovative in our thinking, planning, processes, technology, resourcing and infrastructure development
- Integrated as one team which manages both airports whilst preserving their unique DNA and connecting them to their communities
- An outstanding first and last impression of the destinations represented by the airports, reflecting the best of the region in our people, customer offerings, infrastructure and sustainable practices.

Our direction of travel is reflected in the strategy house below which sets out our aspiration, purpose, major streams of work or themes, and key priorities. The four themes identified are common goals which help us focus our efforts across the organisation. These have been further distilled into priorities against which we measure our performance.

In the following section 'Priorities and Performance Metrics', the priorities are matched with performance metrics and targets to provide accountability and measure our success each year.



## **Priorities and Performance Metrics**

	Making journeys safe, efficient and friendly for our customers	
Priorities	Performance Metrics	Performance Targets
Ensure a safe, secure & compliant airport	Lost Time Injuries	• Zero
environment	Near miss reporting	• 10% > FY19
	CAA security audits	Compliance Achieved
	Critical risk factors identified, evaluated and controlled	Ongoing
	• Annual environmental baseline monitoring and reporting process embedded – energy, water, waste, soil, air, and noise	• June 2021
	• Increase noise monitoring frequency from 3 yearly to annually, to manage growth appropriately and to ensure compliance with our noise boundaries	• Annual
	Work with airport stakeholders on carbon footprint reduction measures	Ongoing
	Increase operations control room staffing to 16 hrs/7 days a week	• Dec 2019
	Drone reporting/compliance and public education programme	Ongoing
	Frontline staff complete customer service training programme	• 100% completed by Jun 2020
Develop a capable, skilled & engaged	Customer Satisfaction surveys	• 4.1 out of 5 satisfaction
customer-centric team	• Unit Standard-based airport operations diploma established and rolled out to all Operational staff as a minimum standard	• Jun 2020
	Deliver the Queenstown Airport Pathway Programme:	Within two financial years
Deliver infrastructure & services in line	Additional BMU capacity planned and delivered	• Jun 2020
with customer demand	Implement Aviation Security-regulated body scanners in conjunction with smart lane technology	• Jun 2020
	Departure lounge capacity increase	• Jun 2020
	All airlines move to self-service kiosks	• Dec 2019
	Airline and agency administration space, and utilities are delivered to meet capacity requirements	• Jun 2021
	Overall seismic compliance enhanced to 70-100% of New Building Standard ("NBS")	• Dec 2021
Build business & operational resilience	Create a back-up potable water supply for ZQN	• Jun 2020
	Virtual infrastructure replacement completed and commissioned	• Jun 2020
	Emergency management response training for all staff	Maintain 100% Operations staff
	Business Continuity Plan enhanced, trained and tested	• Jun 2020
	Establish GA strategy to help inform both the ZQN and WKA master plans	• Jun 2019
Enable diverse general aviation activities	Warbirds Over Wanaka agreement completed	• Jul 2019
	• Formal management agreement in place for QAC to manage Glenorchy airstrip on an ongoing basis	• Dec 2019

Providing value and memories for our customers				
Priorities	Performance Metrics Performa			
Provide innovative & valued customer	Appropriate mix of local owner-operators and national brands within both airport precincts	Ongoing		
offerings	Growth in commercial revenue as per financial forecast	• 2019-2021		
	All advertising assets are operational	• Dec 2019		
	Increase real-time customer data delivery	• Jun 2020		
Deliver an outstanding park-to-plane experience reflecting the best of the	• Establish new customer satisfaction measurements for self-service check-in experience with our airline partners	• Dec 2020		
region	Establish new customer satisfaction measurements for security screening with AVSEC	• Jun 2020		
	Targeted rate of customer satisfaction achieved for car parking and ground transport	• 3.5 out of 5 satisfaction		
Ensure connecting transport solutions enhance the customer experience	<ul> <li>Coordinated and planned approach with our transport partners (QLDC, NZTA and ORC) to achieve enhanced airport, local and regional connectivity – particularly through the master plan processes for Wanaka and Queenstown Airports</li> </ul>	Ongoing		
	Share insights and datasets with our transport partners to help inform decision making for transport decisions and proposals	Ongoing		
	• Deliver ground transport technology solutions such as online parking at terminal, electric charging stations and licence plate recognition in line with infrastructure upgrades	• Dec 2020		
Embrace & showcase our cultural heritage	Develop a heritage management plan for QACs heritage assets	• Dec 2019		
	Implement key actions identified	• Jan - Dec 2020		
	<ul> <li>Provide updates twice a year on integrating our aviation heritage, national and regional culture, and Te Reo into planning, appropriate projects, staff training and storytelling</li> </ul>	Feb and Aug each year		

Making sustainable use of our land and respecting our unique environment			
Priorities	Performance Metrics	Performance Targets	
Create & optimise our land and air footprint to facilitate future growth	• Continue to actively participate in QLDC's Proposed District Plan process to ensure ZQN and Wanaka airports' planning framework is appropriate to meet their strategic goals, and that the effects of reverse sensitivity are managed.	As per QLDC timetables	
	• Determine the appropriate land use for each airport based on master planning outcomes and develop a programme to achieve these requirements through the relevant RMA processes.	• Jun 2020	
	• Secure appropriate consents required for ZQN and WKA airports as part of the master planning process	• Jun 2020	
	• Complete the Public Works Act (PWA) acquisition of "Lot 6".	• Dec 2019	
	• Acquire any land or property required to enable the development of the agreed ZQN and WKA master plans	• Jun 2020	
Develop complementary master plans to	Develop a spatial master plan for Wanaka Airport	• Dec 2019	
support the dual airport model	Develop a preferred master plan option for Queenstown Airport	• Dec 2019	
	Refine the Queenstown Airport and Wanaka Airport master plan spatial planning	• Jun 2020	
	• Following the confirmation of the preferred option for Queenstown Airport, deliver the next level of detail – a "Terminal Development Plan"	• Dec 2020	
	Continue to engage with the community throughout the master planning process	Ongoing	
Develop land holdings to optimise return on investment & support long-term growth	Clarify any land available for lease, tenure available and day-to-day management of airport land and assets	• Dec 2019	
	• Following the confirmation of preferred master plans, and the successful acquisition of 'Lot 6', commence the planning of the General Aviation precinct	• Dec 2020	
Manage our impact on the environment & community in a sustainable way	<ul> <li>Noise mitigation works completed on all current inner and mid sector homes who have accepted mitigation offers</li> </ul>	• Dec 2021	
	Monitor and review noise compliance against monthly aircraft movements	Monthly	
	Hold regular airline stakeholder meetings to share information and manage growth	Monthly	

Working together to deliver balanced outcomes for our team, stakeholders & community			
Priorities	Performance Metrics	Performance Targets	
Foster a values-led "one team" culture	Improved staff engagement survey	• 10% improvement year-on-year	
	Staff & Leadership development plans achieved	• Annual	
Ensure a fit-for-purpose organisational	Develop a viable dual-airport approach for Queenstown and Wanaka airports	• Dec 2019	
design & capability	Develop and roll out an organisational and capability plan to implement the dual airport model	• Jan 2020	
	Internal audit on systems and processes	• Jun 2020	
Strive for an engaged community that values our contributions	Provide updates through various QAC channels on our sustainability programme to share social, economic and environmental value	Ongoing	
	Regularly engage with our shareholders, stakeholders and community about QAC's long term planning activities	Ongoing	
	Work with key agencies on long-term planning initiatives	Ongoing	
	<ul> <li>Engage with our team, airport stakeholders and community through a programme of events:         <ul> <li>Behind-the-scenes airport education/community visits at both airports from across the region</li> <li>Annual Airport Community Day at Queenstown and Wanaka airports</li> <li>Airport Safety Week programme across both airports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul><li>Throughout the year</li><li>Dec each year</li><li>Oct each year</li></ul>	
	Share airport insights and datasets with stakeholders and community via communication channels	• Monthly, quarterly, 6-monthly, annual	
	Share relevant airport and aviation news and stories to help inform and educate the communities we serve	Ongoing	
Deliver value to shareholders through	Deliver dividends per shareholder expectation	• Annual	
sustainable returns	Deliver Long Term Funding strategy	• Dec 2019	
	Leases and licenses reviewed, renewed and up to date	• 2019-2021	
	• Explore and implement opportunities to achieve returns on land and property by releasing current vacant land holdings to the lease-hold market	• 2019-2021	
Enhance collaborative relationships	Participate in stakeholder and community long term planning forums	Ongoing	
across our airport communities &	Host airport community get-togethers at both airports	Quarterly	
stakeholders	Participate in Queenstown and Wanaka user groups	Quarterly	
	Share customer experience data with the airport community to assist with performance targets	Quarterly	

# Summary of Key Strategic Projects

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Dual-Airport Business Model	Develop a viable dual-airport model for Queenstown and Wanaka airports.	<ul> <li>Present dual-airport model</li> <li>Organisational design and capability reviewed.</li> </ul>	Implement dual- airport model.	
Queenstown Airport Master Plan		<ul> <li>Determine preferred option.</li> <li>Refine Queenstown Airport master plan spatial planning based on agreed growth projections.</li> <li>General Aviation (GA) precinct detailed design commences.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Commence Terminal Development Plan.</li> <li>GA precinct development commences.</li> </ul>	
Wanaka Airport Master Plan	<ul> <li>Commence development of draft Master Plan.</li> <li>Regular stakeholder/ community engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Stakeholder/ community engagement on draft Master Plan.</li> </ul>	Detailed planning & consenting.	Detailed planning & consenting.
Project Pathway for (Queenstown Airport)	<ul> <li>Border Agency area expansion completed.</li> <li>Check-in transformation completed.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Baggage Makeup Unit expansion completed.</li> <li>Security Screening process improvements and infrastructure changes designed and implemented.</li> </ul>	Domestic Departure Lounge expansion completed.	
Noise Planning	Continuation of PDP hearings incorporating PC35 provisions	<ul> <li>Determine required noise planning framework for ZQN and WKA.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Progress any changes to the noise planning framework through the RMA process.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finalise any changes to noise planning framework.</li> </ul>
Noise Mitigation Programme (Queenstown Airport)	Continue works in annual or 2-yearly tranches for next 15 years.	<ul> <li>Continue works in annual or 2-yearly tranches for next 15 years.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue works in annual or 2-yearly tranches for next 15 years.</li> </ul>	Continue works in annual or 2-yearly tranches for next 15 years.
Land Acquisition	<ul> <li>'Lot 6' Public Works Act (PWA) proceedings for Queenstown Airport.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>'Lot 6' PWA compensation agreed.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Continue to assess other opportunities as they arise.</li> </ul>	Continue to assess other opportunities as they arise.

# Financial Forecast FY2019-2022

Net Profit after Tax (NPAT) is forecast to increase in the three-year period from \$15.5 million in FY19 (current financial year) to \$17.9M million in FY22 (period ending 30 June 2022).

EBITDA is forecast to increase from \$32.7 million in FY19 to \$42.0 million in FY22. This improvement in EBITDA is primarily due to a combination of an increase in passenger numbers and managing operating expenditure at a lower rate than revenue growth.

QAC plans to manage aircraft movements within the existing parameters of noise consents, leading to passenger numbers growing at a reduced rate than experienced in recent times. Whilst operating expenses will increase in real terms during the forecast period, they will increase at a rate that is lower than the revenue, demonstrating the resilience in the operating mode.

Further infrastructure improvements, including Project Pathway (to meet short/medium term demand) and building resilience improvements, will lead to an increase in both interest expenses and depreciation. Depreciation and amortisation expense is also negatively impacted by the amortisation related to the airport's noise mitigation programme. QAC will continue to review the useful life of property, plant and equipment to ensure that the depreciation and amortisation rates applied remains appropriate.

Dividend payments are forecast to be in the range of \$7.7 million to \$8.8 million during the period. Dividends are declared based on 50% of NPAT. In making any dividend payments, QAC's Board of Directors will give due consideration to forecast operating profits, capital expenditure and other cash requirements.

The Company has sufficient funding head-room within existing bank facilities to execute its capital investment programme during the period.

#### SOI FINANCIAL FORECAST

For the Financial Years Ending 30th June 000

000	FCT	FCT	FCT	FCT
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
Financial Performance				
Total Revenue	49,163	55,300	58,229	61,286
Total Operating Expenditure	(16,430)	(18,136)	(18 <i>,</i> 438)	(19,275)
EBITDA	32,733	37,164	39,791	42,011
Depreciation & Amortisation	(8,126)	(9,971)	(10,628)	(12,405)
EBIT	24,607	27,193	29,163	29,606
Interest Expense	(3,064)	(3,233)	(4,743)	(4,701)
Profit Before Tax	21,543	23,960	24,420	24,904
Тах	(6,078)	(6,714)	(6 <i>,</i> 838)	(6,973)
Net Profit After Tax	15,465	17,246	17,582	17,931
Dividends Paid <sup>1</sup>	7,186	7,732	8,623	8,791
Operating Cash Flow	36,788	32,640	35,084	38,526
Capital Expenditure	(29,155)	(63,212)	(37,751)	(24,304)
Closing Debt	69,639	115,501	132,079	134,474
Return on Equity (NPAT to Avg SH Funds <sup>2</sup> )	5.5%	5.9%	5.7%	5.5%
Return on Assets (NPAT to Avg Total Assets <sup>3</sup> )	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%	3.7%
EBITDA > 2 times funding expense	10.7	11.5	8.4	8.9
Shareholders Funds to Total Tangible Assets > 50%	76%	69%	68%	68%
Revenue per Pax	\$20.69	\$21.43	\$21.51	\$21.73
EBITDA per Pax	\$14.07	\$14.86	\$15.05	\$15.27
NPAT per Pax	\$6.65	\$6.90	\$6.65	\$6.52

Notes

1. Dividends calculated on a paid basis rather than earned.

2. Average Shareholders' funds based on opening and closing balances.

3. Average Total Assets based on opening and closing balances.

# Shareholder Interaction and Corporate Governance

## **Regulatory Framework**

QAC is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2002. Section 59 sets out the principal objectives of a CCTO which are to:

- (a) achieve the objectives of its Shareholders, both commercial and non-commercial, as specified in the statement of intent; and
- (b) be a good employer; and
- (c) exhibit a sense of social and environmental responsibility by having regard to the interests of the community in which it operates and by endeavouring to accommodate or encourage these when able to do so; and
- (d) conduct its affairs in accordance with sound business practice.

QAC's business is also subject to regulatory control under the Airport Authorities Act 1966 and complies with the disclosure requirements of a specified airport company pursuant to the Airport Authorities (Airport Companies Information Disclosure) Regulations.

The Airport Authorities Act 1966 (section 4(3)) states that the Airport "...must be operated or managed as a commercial undertaking."

The company's governance is also covered by the Companies Act 1993.

QAC's aeronautical operations are governed by the Civil Aviation Act 1990 and Civil Aviation Rules Part 139.

## **Statement of Intent (SOI) Process**

As a CCTO, QAC must prepare a SOI in accordance with Section 64(1) of the Local Government Act 2002.

QAC submits a draft SOI for the coming financial year to Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) by 1 March. Following consultation with QLDC, and after considering any comments from QLDC, the final SOI is approved by the airport's Board of Directors and delivered to QLDC by 30 June.

## **Board of Directors**

QAC Board of Directors and management are committed to ensuring the Company meets recommended best practice governance principles and maintains the highest ethical standards.

The Board of Directors is appointed by the Shareholders to govern and direct QAC's activities. The Board is the overall final body responsible for all decision-making within the Company. It is accountable to its Shareholders for the financial and non-financial performance of the Company.

The Board has established an Audit and Financial Risk Committee to oversee the Company's financial reporting processes, system of internal control, and the external audit process, and its processes for identifying and managing financial risk, and for monitoring compliance with applicable law and its own policies. The Board has also established a Safety and Operations Risk Committee to oversee the Company's performance and reporting related to health & safety and operational activities and monitor compliance with applicable law and its own policies.

#### **Role of the Board**

The Board is responsible for the proper direction and oversight of QAC's activities. This responsibility includes:

- Approving strategic plans, budgets and the SOI
- Corporate policies, including financial and dividend policies, and delegated authorities
- Monitoring financial performance and achievement of the strategic initiatives and SOI objectives
- Appointment and monitoring of the performance and remuneration of the Chief Executive (CE)
- Integrity of management information systems
- Assessment of business opportunities and business risks
- Internal control and assurance systems
- Compliance with relevant law
- Reporting to Shareholders

## **Reporting to Shareholders**

The Company has adopted 30 June as its balance date.

Within two months of the end of the first half of each financial year, Directors will deliver to Shareholders an Interim Report which will consist of:

- Chair and CE's report
- Directors' Responsibility statement
- Unaudited financial statements
- Notes to the financial statements including accounting policies

Within three months of the end of each financial year, Directors will deliver to Shareholders an Annual Report which will consist of:

- Chair and CE's report
- Directors' Responsibility statement
- Audited financial statements

- A Statement of Service Performance summarising QAC's performance of the SOI goals and objectives
- Notes to the financial statements including accounting policies
- Independent Auditor's Report

The Board works collaboratively with its Shareholders to ensure a "no surprises" relationship.

Quarterly meetings are held between QAC's Chair and CE and QLDC's Mayor and CE. These meetings are an opportunity to provide greater insights and information on business performance and issues of importance. QAC's CE and CFO also present the annual financial results to the QLDC Council and QLDC Audit Committee.

Annual meetings are held between QAC's Chair and CE and Auckland International Airport's Chair and CE where opportunities to work together in delivering Strategic Objectives are discussed (refer Strategic Alliance).

## **Dividend Policy**

The Directors will declare dividends according to the following policy:

At their discretion, Directors may declare a full year dividend each year in a range of 50% and 100% of normalized Net Profit After Tax (NPAT), after adjusting for unrealised gains and losses arising from revaluation of property or treasury instruments and material extraordinary items.

In determining the full year dividend the Directors will consider:

- Solvency;
- Banking covenants and company treasury policy;
- Working capital and capital expenditure requirements; and
- The interests of shareholders.

An interim dividend may be declared and paid by 28 February each year. Any final dividend will be paid by 31 August each year.

Directors will determine the level of imputation credits having regard to the needs of shareholders.

The Directors will consider any request from the Shareholders for additional dividend payments and will apply prudent governance when considering such requests.

The Directors will not issue shares wholly or partly in lieu of the proposed dividend or proposed future dividends, without the written approval of Shareholders.

## **Capital Subscription**

No new shares in the company can be issued without the consent of Shareholders.

The company is confident it can fund its capital growth plans from internal sources (cash flow and/or debt) during the forecast period FY2019-FY22. The Board will assess this position annually as part of the SOI process.

#### **Investment in Other Entities**

The Company must consult with the Shareholders prior to any investment being made in another entity.

## **Services Provided to QLDC**

QAC provides property maintenance services at Glenorchy Airstrip on behalf of QLDC. QLDC and QAC have agreed in principle that, subject to agreeing the terms, QAC will provide a broader range of management services at the airport.

QAC leases land to QLDC which forms part of the Frankton Golf Course for \$25,000 p.a.

## Wanaka Guiding Principles

As part of the long-term lease process in 2017, QLDC and QAC developed principles to guide the management and development of Wanaka Airport:

- 1. QLDC and QAC are committed to the development of Wanaka Airport to support district growth and community needs.
- 2. QLDC and QAC support the operation, management, planning and development of Wanaka Airport by QAC as a key element of an integrated, complementary, district-wide strategy to foster the growth of aviation services.
- 3. QLDC and QAC acknowledge that the long-term lease arrangement regarding Wanaka Airport should vest economic control of Wanaka Airport in QAC and its terms should encourage investment in the Airport by QAC.
- 4. QLDC and QAC agree that the governance model for Wanaka Airport will be effective and similar to the current model in place for Queenstown Airport.
- 5. QLDC and QAC agree Wanaka Airport should become an economically viable and sustainable business.
- 6. QLDC and QAC believe that the support of the communities served by Wanaka Airport is important to its development.
- 7. QLDC and QAC agree to commit to engage with all of the stakeholders involved at the Wanaka Airport and the wider Wanaka community in future planning activities.
- 8. QLDC and QAC support Activities, (such as, general aviation, scientific research and education), and Events, (such as Warbirds over Wanaka), at Wanaka Airport.
- 9. These Activities and Events will require sustainable arrangements including an appropriate transition period.

The commercial vision is for Wanaka Airport to become a financially viable and sustainable airport, generating appropriate returns on its assets and contributing to the district's economic development and wellbeing of the community.

- We will adopt a commercial approach promoting and enabling sustainable growth whilst retaining the public, community and social values.
- We will consider the needs and activities of different operators and seek to adopt a 'user pays' model operators pay for what they use and no more.
- All existing legal agreements will be honoured. Transitional arrangements will be developed to assist operators to move smoothly from the current model to a more sustainable model.
- We will actively engage with the airport community, particularly in the transition, giving everyone the opportunity to give feedback on the commercial approach.

# Strategic Alliance with AIAL

Auckland International Airport Limited's (AIAL) investment in QAC includes an undertaking between the two companies to work together to grow QAC's business returns and increase passenger numbers.

The focus of the strategic alliance for the next five years will be for the two companies to leverage the scale and connectivity of a multi-airport relationship to grow visitor activity and deliver superior earnings growth to both companies and economic growth to their respective communities.

Where appropriate, QAC will seek to leverage AIAL's market and operational scale, intellectual property and management capabilities in aeronautical, retail, commercial and property development functions including:

- Collaboration to further develop air services between the two airports, sharing relevant market information and analysis
- Joint ventures on relevant tourism-related marketing and tactical promotions
- Optimising operational efficiency through technology and process innovation
- Support in maximising non-aero revenue through the sharing of data and retail/transport expertise
- Input on industry/airport trends and operating efficiencies, particularly in identifying and managing common strategic risks
- Training and/or mentoring support for personnel
- Support with procurement

AIAL will continue its own route development into markets such as the US, China, South East Asia and South America that cannot support direct flights to Queenstown due to aircraft size. Promotions will feature Queenstown and promote passengers travelling through AIAL to Queenstown on domestic carriers.

## Audit

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) has appointed Deloitte to undertake the financial audit of QAC for the three years ended 30 June 2017 to 2019.

## **Accounting Policies**

QAC will maintain accounting records in accordance with the Companies Act 1993.

QAC will prepare financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 2013; the Companies Act 1993, the Local Government Act 2002, the Airport Authorities Act 1966 and the Airport Authorities (Airport Companies Information Disclosure) Regulations 1999 (as amended in 2014). These include the requirement to comply with New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice (NZ GAAP).

# **Corporate Directory**

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Location:	Queenstown Airport Corporati	on
	Airport Administration, Queen	stown Airport
	Sir Henry Wigley Drive	
	Frankton	
	Queenstown 9300	
Mailing address:	PO Box 2641	
	Queenstown 9349	
	NEW ZEALAND	
Phone:	+64 3 450 9031	
Email:	admin@queenstownairport.co	<u></u>
Websites:	www.queenstownairport.co.na	<u>z</u>
	www.wanakaairport.com	
Shareholders	Queenstown Lakes District Cou	ıncil (75.01%)
	Auckland Airport Holdings (No	2) Limited (24.99%)
Directors	Prudence Flacks (Chair)	
	Grant Lilly	
	Michael Stiassny	
	Norman Thompson	
	Mark Thomson	
	Adrienne Young-Cooper	
Senior Management	Chief Executive	Colin Keel
		colin.keel@queenstownairport.co.nz
	Chief Financial Officer	Andrew Williamson
	and Company Secretary	andrew.williamson@queenstownairport.co.nz
	General Manager,	Mike Clay
	Operations and Safety	mikec@queenstownairport.co.nz
	General Manager,	Rachel Tregidga
	Property and Planning	rachelt@queenstownairport.co.nz
	General Manager,	Olivia Pierre
	Commercial and Customer	oliviap@queenstownairport.co.nz
	Experience	
Senior persons per Civil	Chief Executive	Colin Keel
Aviation Rules, part 139	General Manager,	Mike Clay
	Operations and Safety	,
	•	

# Abbreviations

AIAL	Auckland International Airport Limited
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
CE	Chief Executive Officer
ссто	Council-Controlled Trading Organisation
EBITDA	Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation
F&B	Food and Beverage
FY	Financial Year – 1 July to 30 June
GA	General Aviation
NPAT	Net Profit After Tax
ОСВ	Outer Control Boundary
PC35	Queenstown Lakes District Council Plan Change 35 relating to Airport Noise boundaries
PDP	Proposed District Plan
QAC	Queenstown Airport Corporation, the company that operates Queenstown Airport and Wanaka Airport
QLDC	Queenstown Lakes District Council
RMA	Resource Management Act
SOI	Statement of Intent
WKA	Wanaka Airport
ZQN	Queenstown Airport