

Minutes of a Council Workshop
Tuesday 12 November 2024 at 1.00pm
Council Chambers, Gorge Road, Queenstown

Present:	Mayor Lewers (Chair)	Councillor Guy
	Councillor Bartlett	Councillor Smith (online)
	Councillor Bruce	Councillor Tucker
	Councillor Cocks	Councillor Wong
	Councillor Gladding	Councillor White
	Councillor Ferguson	Mr John Wellington (WUCCB)
	Mr Simon Telfer (WUCCB Chair)	Mr Chris Hadfield (WUCCB) (online)
	Ms Linda Joll (WUCCB) (online)	
Apologies:	Councillor Whitehead	
In attendance:	Mike Theelen	Roger Davidson
	Tony Avery	Paul Speedy
	Meaghan Miller	Katherine Harbrow
	Michelle Morss (online)	Naell Crosby-Roe (online)
	Rebecca Pitts (online)	
	Two members of the public	No members of the media

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Wānaka Airport</u></p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the dual workstreams for Wānaka Airport namely the mandatory Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) 139 Qualifying Status operational upgrade and a proposal for an independent Wānaka Airport Future Review.</p> <p>Meaghan Miller introduced the item. Ms Miller, Tony Avery and Roger Davidson spoke to a PowerPoint that addressed both the mandatory operational review as well as the Airport Future Review.</p> <p>Officers noted that they had recently met and had a constructive engagement with the Wānaka Airport Users Group. There was clarification of the distinction between Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and the Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) and of QAC's role in the Operational Review.</p> <p>Officers explained the distinction between master planning and scenario planning, clarifying that aeronautical experts only undertake scenario planning. Officers also emphasised</p>	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>the importance of community engagement as well as technical analysis from aeronautical experts.</p> <p>Officers explained that an independent consultant would be engaged in order to assist in conducting the Wānaka Airport Future Review. The stages of the envisaged process were outlined, which included the consultant leading workshops as well as undertaking engagement with key stakeholders and the community. The specific steps identified for consultants and Council officers were clarified.</p> <p>There was a question about whether community engagement would take place in parallel with or subsequent to the consultant hearing context from elected members and/or key stakeholders. Concern was raised about community engagement taking place after the initial conversations, related to this, there was extensive discussion about the potential perception of predetermination.</p> <p>It was clarified that the consultant needed ‘some’ context to enable meaningful engagement with the community, to be informed about the key issues. The emphasis is on the community engagement and the entire proposal was centred on removing any perception in relation to predetermination. There being no agenda other than to have the community inform potential scenarios.</p> <p>Officers responded to questions on topics including the role of the CAA, feedback from the Airport Users Group, and whether any particular consultants were being considered for the Future Review.</p> <p>There was discussion about whether the process would require a Special Consultative Procedure, and it was clarified that while that was not required for the proposal to engage, it would be considered at the point where the future operation of the airport is considered, this is dependent on the agreed scenario.</p> <p>There was support from elected members for moving ahead with the procurement process for the independent consultant.</p> <p>Attachment A: Presentation Slides (see attached)</p>	

The workshop concluded at 2.12pm

Wānaka Airport

October 2024

Councillor and WUCCB Workshop

Dual Workstreams

1. Wānaka Airport Operational Safety Review

Wānaka Airport has now reached a threshold of activity invoking CAA formal notification of determination that Wānaka Airport must be managed under the authority of a Part 139 Qualifying Aerodrome Operator Certificate to come into effect July 2027.

Noting this means both a safety and management review must be undertaken and changes implemented. This is mandatory.

2. Wanaka Airport Future Review

What does the future use of Wānaka Airport look like? Many voices starting to be heard in this space but we recommend that what is necessary is an independent, expert (including aeronautical technical expertise) process to engage the Upper Clutha Community and wider stakeholders to understand and develop scenarios for the potential future operation of Wānaka Airport.

Wānaka Airport Operational Review

Workstream one: Mandatory Operational Safety Review **Roger/Tony**

- > The CAA Director has issued a letter notifying QLDC that the CAA requires the Wānaka Airport to achieve qualifying status under Part 139 of the Civil Aviation Rules.
- > **The date to achieve this has been agreed as 1 July 2027.**
- > Achieving qualifying status is a change for the airport. The requirements are outlined in The Civil Aviation Rules Part 139 Sub part G & H.

Mandatory Operational Review

- > The main tasks to achieve qualifying status are:
 - Appoint suitable senior people to specific roles, requires change to the current Management Services Agreement (12-18 months' work).
 - Physical works to provide a safe operating environment e.g. tree removal strip widening and new fencing (2-3 years' work)
 - Safety systems & specific documentation, including an exposition (10 -12 months' work if we adopt an existing operators system).
- > The LTP included the intention and budget to achieve these works and transition to a qualifying aerodrome status.

Mandatory Operational Review

- > The LTP included the intention and budget to achieve these works and transition to a qualifying aerodrome status.
- > The QAC which holds the current management agreement for Wānaka Airport has been assisting with the development of a work programme. This is essential as QAC staff have the aeronautical expertise to support achievement of the qualifying status.
- > The Wānaka Airport commercial users and user group are essential in terms of supporting the change of status. An initial meeting has been held with the user groups.

Wānaka Airport Future Review

Workstream two: Wānaka Airport Future Review **Meaghan / Mike**

- > QLDC signalled in the LTP in July 2024, its intent to enable the development of a long-term plan for Wānaka Airport and an assurance that the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community will be part of shaping it, noting this is a district asset and engagement will be open to the wider community and stakeholders.

Wānaka Airport Future Review

Key elements to a review:

- > Independence
- > Significant Community and Stakeholder Engagement
- > Aeronautical Expertise
- > Legal

Wānaka Airport Future Review

Key questions for us to consider:

- > What is the community and stakeholder vision for Wānaka Airport?
- > What does effective engagement with the community on this important asset look like?
- > What technical analysis is required before we consider potential scenarios?
Economic, Social, Commercial, Environmental...
- > What are the potential scenarios?
- > What does future management look like?

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The technical aspect on the following is based on independent aeronautical advice.

The Who

Council will undertake procurement to seek a reverse brief for the independent delivery of the Wānaka Airport Future Review.

We would anticipate a hybrid response of aeronautical, social, economic, legal and consultation/strategic communication expertise.

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The technical aspect on the following is based on independent aeronautical advice.

The What: Step 1

> Consultant to undertake Wānaka Airport Due Diligence and Analysis Review taking into account a number of strategic documents including but not limited to:

- *Grow Well Whaiora and Growth Data*
- *DMP*
- *Economic Diversification/Climate Change*
- *QAC Masterplan Data*
- *CAA S139 safety improvements requirement 2027*
- *Others*

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The technical aspect on the following is based on independent aeronautical advice.

The What: Step 1

- > Consultant to undertake Councillor/WUCCB Workshop to understand ‘in principle’ the political vision for Wānaka Airport, applying context from Analysis Review.
- > Consultant to undertake pre consultation on ‘in principle’ vision with key stakeholders (to be agreed and including WUCCB, Airport Users Group, Airport Liaison Group, WSG, Chamber and DW) and establish a stakeholder advisory group.
- > Consultant to undertake community engagement on the future use of Wānaka Airport.

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The technical aspect on the following is based on independent aeronautical advice.

The What: Step 2

- > **Consultant** to undertake scenario development to include scale/timeline/commercial /financial/legal implications, economic/growth considerations (including airport management and or lease options). **This must include consideration of and alignment with the delivery of operational 139 Qualifying Status (CAA) and the Operational Upgrade Plan (completion 1 July 2027)**
- > **Consultant** to undertake Councillor/WUCCB Workshop on scenario development.

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The technical aspect on the following is based on independent aeronautical advice.

The What: Step 2

- > **Consultant** to undertake community consultation on scenarios (4 weeks).
- > **Consultant** to undertake Workshop to report back on consultation findings and potential management and lease options.
- > **Officer-led** Full Council Decision on preferred scenario and management options (potential for dual papers).
- > **Officer-led** Wānaka Airport operator decision (Management Agreement, Lease or other TBC) noting this may require a series of workshops before a Full Council Decision.

Wānaka Airport Future Review Proposal

The next step will be delivered by the Wānaka Airport Operator (aeronautical experts) in consultation with QLDC and the community.

The What: Step 3.

- > Councillor/WUCCB Workshop with Airport Management provider on next steps. This may or may not include (depending on the outputs of Steps 1-3) the development of a 10 Year Strategic Plan and potential Future Use (Master) Plan or other future facing technical operation and development plan.
- > This in turn would be subject to community engagement (as per ZQN Masterplan). Noting that as a minimum 139 Status is mandatory as outlined.

Next Steps and Timing TBC

Indicative:

Wānaka Airport Review

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| > Nov/Dec 2024 | Undertake procurement |
| > Dec 2024 - Feb 2025 | Engage consultants and agree timeline |
| > Feb – Apr 2024 | Undertake stapes 1 – 3 (noting optimistic timeline) |
| > Jun/Jul 2025 | Scenario decision and operating model decision |
| > Late 2025 – 2026 | Strategic Planning/Master Planning |

Wānaka CAA 139

- > 2024-2027

Questions?

