

Meeting Minutes #1



Glenorchy Airstrip Consultative Governance Committee Minutes of Meeting	
Where:	The Supper Room, Queenstown Memorial Centre
Time:	1:00pm
Date:	Monday 5 th March
Who:	Councillor Craig Ferguson, Robert Bakhuis (GCA), Mike Clay (QAC), Jay Cameron (Wyuna/BB), Jeannie Galavazi (QLDC) Brad McCleay (Astral)
Apologies:	Nick Nicholson (Operators)

ITEM 1: Meeting opened at 1.05pm

As the Chair was yet to be appointed, Jeannie Galavazi (Secretary) opened the meeting.

Apologies As above

ITEM 2: Introductions

Jay Cameron – Representing Wyuna Preserve Residents Association/Blanket Bay (Wyuna). Employed by Darby Partners who developed Wyuna Preserve –with lots that remain to be sold.

Councillor Craig Ferguson (Ferg).- Elected member who is appointed to the Glenorchy Community – has done so for the last 4 years.

Mike Clay – General Manager Operations at Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC). Queenstown Airport will eventually manage the Glenorchy Airstrip on behalf of QLDC.

Robert Bakhuis - Glenorchy Community Association (GCA). Resident of Glenorchy for 40+ years. Represents Community Association and also Glenorchy businesses.

Jeannie Galavazi (Secretary) Senior Parks and Reserves Planner, QLDC. Responsible for implementing the Glenorchy Airstrip Reserve Management Plan.

ITEM 3: Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference have been adopted by QLDC.

Jay questioned what implication does Health and Safety have on the Terms of Reference. Jeannie explained that while Health and Safety doesn't feature in the Terms of Reference it is of utmost priority for both QLDC and QAC and there is work currently underway to improve risks to Health and Safety at the Airstrip.

Robert questioned who owns the airstrip and is it protected from being sold to other interests. Jeannie explained that QLDC owns and administered the airstrip reserve. It is vested as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. There is no intention to sell and it must be administered in accordance with the Glenorchy Airstrip Reserves Management Plan adopted in 2016. Mike stated due to topographical constraints the airstrip would never be suitable for commercial development and QAC has no interest in doing so.

Robert asked who is 'Airstrip Manager'. Mike noted QAC will be the airstrip manager once negotiations complete with QLDC, however it is not yet known who or what position will fill the role.

Motion to accept the Terms of Reference. (proposed Mike Clay, seconded Jay Cameron. Accepted All)

ITEM 4: Appointment of Chairperson

Motion to appoint Councillor Craig Ferguson to be Chairperson.

(proposed Robert, seconded Mike C seconded, all in Favour)

Motion to appoint Mike Clay to be Deputy Chairperson. (Proposed Robert, Seconded Jay, all in favour)

Chair then thanked and welcomed all members to the Committee. Invited each member to state the current position of each group on the airstrip.

Robert: GCA concern is noise and increasing traffic, and the resulting increase in tourism. Glenorchy has recently adopted a new vision which is to keep a rural/village atmosphere in contrast to Queenstown. There is a view that activity at the airstrip should be limited to support this vision. However Robert also acknowledged that the aviation businesses, particularly HeliGlenorchy provides business and employment that is good for Glenorchy. Microlites in the past have been very noisy. It seems that that Skydive planes fly over town more frequently and jets appear to be flying lower. Increased sense of intrusion in the township from overhead aircraft. 8am to 8pm or later impacts on peace and quiet. The GACGC needs to have a view on the increasing activity and hours of operation at the airstrip. Glenorchy does need the airstrip, particularly for emergency purposes and Civil Defence.

Jay: Wyuna/BB. Jay receives many emails from the residents at Wyuna Preserve concerned about the noise. Noticeable increase in flights, particularly on fine days. The circuit nature of flights over Wyuna compounds the issue. Aircraft coming in and out of the airstrip/airspace is not such a problem. Noted Reserves Management Plan states low intensity nature of airstrip however there appears to be an increase in activity since the adoption of the plan in 2016. Need to establish a limit as currently there is none.

Mike: QAC priority is for a safe, compliant aerodrome. QAC understands the issue of noise and can bring lots of expertise to the committee on this matter. Can also provide an oversight of what's happening in the airspace in the Wakatipu and has input into Queenstown Milford User Group (QMUG). Notes value in retaining Glenorchy airstrip as it is very difficult to establish new airstrips anywhere in the District.

All present agreed that the minutes should be circulated to Nick Nicholson so he could provide an update and input from the operators.

Action: Jeannie to send draft minutes to Nick for his input.

ITEM 5: Noise Complaints Process

Jeannie presented a template for recording noise complaints. GACGC agreed that a single point of contact should be appointed for noise complaints.

Mike noted that it would be helpful for residents to be aware of helpful information when making noise complaints such as time of day, distinguishing characteristics of aircraft etc as it can be very difficult to determine the offending aircraft. CAA is typically hand off in managing noise complaints. The airstrip should be the focus of noise complaints for the Committee but Committee can work with QMUG for wider noise complaints (eg for Queenstown - Milford aircraft).

Actions:

- Jeannie will create a complaints form that can be made available on the Glenorchy Community Association Website and QLDC's website.
- Robert to get uploaded on GCA website.
- Jeannie to be key point of contact for complaints until such time as QAC is airstrip manager.

ITEM 6: Draft Noise Management Plan

Jeannie tabled a draft Noise Management Plan to be worked upon and progressed to adopted by the Committee. Jay noted items to be included should be requirements around aircraft engines running, flight paths etc. Mike noted the noise management plan could contain noise abatement procedures but an important tool is also the Aeronautical Information Plate (AIP) which can be updated.

Actions:

- Jeannie to circulate electronic version of draft Noise Management Plan,
- Robert, Mike, Chair, Jay and Nick to take to representative groups to obtain feedback and bring back to the next meeting.

ITEM 7: Update from QLDC/Astral

Brad McLeay from the Property Group has been subcontracted by Astral Limited to provide project management services to QLDC. Brad has done similar work at Manapouri Airport.

Fencing and maintenance

Survey work being undertaken – survey pegs in at the airstrip.

Vegetation clearance at either end of airstrip underway soon.

Seeking prices and finalising design for access road.

Robert questioned location of new road. Could cause safety hazards on one of the few stretches of straight road on the Queenstown-Glenorchy Road. Questioned if it could be left on current alignment. Jeannie explained QLDC's preference is that the road is located within QLDC land but the feasibility of upgrading existing pedestrian easement through CABO Ltd land to include a vehicle easement could be explored. Likely that the proposed Glenorchy Sewerage Scheme project requires road to be at southern end of reserve but can confirm. Mike noted issues with the existing road bank eroding due to proximity to Buckler Burn.

Actions:

- Jeannie to confirm Sewerage Scheme road alignment requirements.
- Jay to approach CABO Ltd if they are receptive to a vehicle easement if feasible for sewerage scheme.

AIMMs monitoring system

Jeannie explained QLDC is progressing the installation of the AIMM recording and monitoring for the airstrip. It records the radio calls for all aircraft landing and taking off at the airstrip. The data is then provided to QLDC. This system is in place at Wanaka Airport. AIMM will also be used for invoicing take-off and landing fees once established.

Robert queried if this was the best method and or would alternative such as Flight Aware be appropriate. Mike explained Flight Aware doesn't track many smaller aircraft. AIMM is the best available resource for time and money.

Motion: GACGC supports QLDC installing AIMM for Glenorchy Airstrip.
(Proposed Robert, seconded Chair)

Licences

Jeannie provided update on the licence process. QLDC will be approaching NZONE and HeliGlenorchy with licence applications, with the intent to licence as a priority before approaching Queenstown based operators. Aiming to have the process to a stage where high level licence information can be brought to the next GACGC meeting. Jay stated Wyuna will not support an average limit of flights and that the daily cumulative limit needs to be considered and that items to be included should be requirements around aircraft engines running prior to operating hours, flight paths to be updated

RMA Planning

QLDC is assessing the RMA requirements for the airstrip in the short and long term such as changes to the designation and resource consents (if required) for the access road.

ITEM 8:**Next Meeting**

- Astral report is still in draft. Once adopted this will be tabled at the next GACGC meeting.
- Robert to circulate aviation Code of Practice example.
- Mike Clay to invite Air Traffic Control to next GACGC meeting.

Date and venue for next meeting tbc.

This meeting closed at 2.55pm.