

Agenda for a meeting of:

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee (WALC)

7 April 2025

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

WĀNAKA AIRPORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Rob Phillips (Chair)

Mr Tony Avery

Ms Juliet Breen

Mr Jon Brooks

Mr Andrew Crawford

Mr Don Grant

Mr Simon Telfer

Agenda

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| DATE AND TIME | 7 April 2025, 11.00am-1.00pm |
| LOCATION | Alpine Helicopters Boardroom, Wānaka Airport |
| CHAIRPERSON | Rob Phillips |
| MEMBERS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Avery, General Manager Property & Infrastructure, QLDC • Jon Brooks, Airways Corporation • Juliet Breen, The Airport Manager • Andrew Crawford, Commercial Airlines • Andy Wilton, Wānaka Airport Users Group • Simon Telfer, Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board, QLDC |
| APOLOGIES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Grant, Wānaka Airport Users Group |
| ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Speedy, Strategic Project Manager • Matthew Hulscher, Democracy Services Advisor, QLDC |

| ITEM | | PAGE | WHO |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|---|
| Opening Karakia | | | Rob Phillips |
| Apologies | | | |
| Confirmation of Agenda | | | |
| Confirmation of Previous Minutes | | 4 | Draft minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on 18 November 2024 |
| Items | | | |
| 1 | Wānaka Airport Manager's Report | 9 | Juliet Breen |
| 2 | Wānaka Airport Projects Update (from Queenstown Lakes District Council) | 13 | Tony Avery, Paul Speedy |
| 3 | Other matters | | All |
| 4 | Confirming date and location of next meeting | | All |
| 5 | Closing Karakia | | Rob Phillips |

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Draft minutes of the meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee
held on 18 November 2024

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee

18 November 2024

Page 1 of 4

Minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on Monday 18 November 2024 in the Armstrong Room, Lake Wānaka Centre, Wānaka beginning at 11.10am

Present

Mr Rob Phillips (Independent Chair), Mr Simon Telfer (Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Chair), Mr Tony Avery (General Manager, Property & Infrastructure, QLDC), Mr Todd Grace* (Queenstown Airport – via Teams), Mr Don Grant (Wānaka Airport Users Group)

In Attendance

Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Democracy Services Advisor)

Opening Karakia

An opening karakia was presented by Mr Phillips.

Apologies

Ms Juliet Breen (Queenstown Airport), Mr Jon Brooks (Airways New Zealand) and Mr Andrew Crawford (Sounds Air). *Todd Grace (Queenstown Airport) attending in place of Ms Breen.

It was moved (Mr Phillips/Mr Grant):

That the apologies be accepted.

Motion carried.

Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed with the addition of a discussion regarding the future direction of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee (WALC).

Confirmation of minutes

It was moved (Mr Grant/Mr Telfer):

That the minutes of a meeting of the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee held on 29 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Motion carried.

1. Wānaka Airport Manager's Report

A report presented by Todd Grace (on behalf of Ms Breen) discussed the following about Wānaka Airport:

- a. Aircraft Activity
- b. Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents
- c. Complaints Register Summary (including noise and operational complaints)
- d. Operational Report (including environmental effects, noise, fuelling and fire)

Members noted the increasing traffic at Wānaka Airport following the peak movements recorded in 2019 and agreed that the level of traffic supported the move towards Wānaka Airport obtaining a Qualifying Aerodrome Operator Certificate although it would remain technically an 'unattended' airport. It was noted that those unfamiliar with Wānaka Airport may not be aware that it was unattended.

Members questioned the 276 landings from Tarras but it was noted that this represented one aircraft making multiple landings.

There was discussion about removing 'Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents' from the report as none currently occurred. However, it was observed that this was one of the Terms of Reference under which WALC had been established and it should therefore remain in place as an item reported on.

It was moved (Mr Avery/Mr Grant):

That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the report.

Motion carried.

2. Wānaka Airport Projects Update

Mr Avery spoke to the report provided in the agenda.

Aircraft movements

August 2024 aircraft movements were down, largely because there had been an inversion layer on most days that month over Wānaka.

Landing Fee Changes

The grass runway needed to be fixed because it was rough at present and also because it was safer for some aircraft to land on grass.

The development of a contingent runway was noted. Citing the need for more revenue, members supporting increasing landing fees annually and exploring other potential revenue opportunities (e.g. introducing parking charges).

It was moved (Mr Avery/Mr Telfer):

That the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee note the Council report.

Motion carried.

3. Wānaka Airport November Update

There was discussion about change management processes to ensure that the needs of users were considered alongside the introduction of the new requirements needed as a Qualifying Aerodrome because some of the previous freedoms would change.

Part B of the Aeronautical Study, which addresses airspace issues, will not be reviewed by Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) until a Master Plan for Wānaka Airport is in place. There was further discussion about introduction of a mandatory broadcast zone against which there had been strong feedback from the para-gliding and hang-gliding communities for whom such a requirement was difficult to fulfil.

It was noted that a procurement process was currently underway to seek a company to deliver the independent Wānaka Airport Future Review.

4. Update on recent correspondence

It was noted that the financial information provided was of a general nature and not in detail.

Revenue streams from NASA were discussed and Mr Grade explained the way in which they were reported separately in the financial records of Wānaka Airport and Queenstown Airport. He considered it unhelpful to conflate the issues and read something into the records that was not there.

The view was expressed that although cognisant of the commercial sensitivities, NASA revenue all should go to Wānaka Airport and there would be value in convening a meeting of interested parties in early 2025 to discuss the detail.

5. Other matters

Future direction of the WALC

There was discussion about how members considered the WALC was going and ways of adding value to meetings. There was general agreement that meetings had been of limited value to date but this meeting had considered more meaningful matters and members were excited that QAC seemed to be preparing to engage with the Upper Clutha community on the future of Wānaka Airport.

6. Confirming date and location of next meeting

Monday, 7 April 2025 at 11.00am in the Alpine Helicopters Board Room, Wānaka Airport.

Closing Karakia

Ms Robertson presented a closing karakia.

The meeting concluded at 12.13pm.

Confirmed as a true and correct record:

CHAIR

DATE

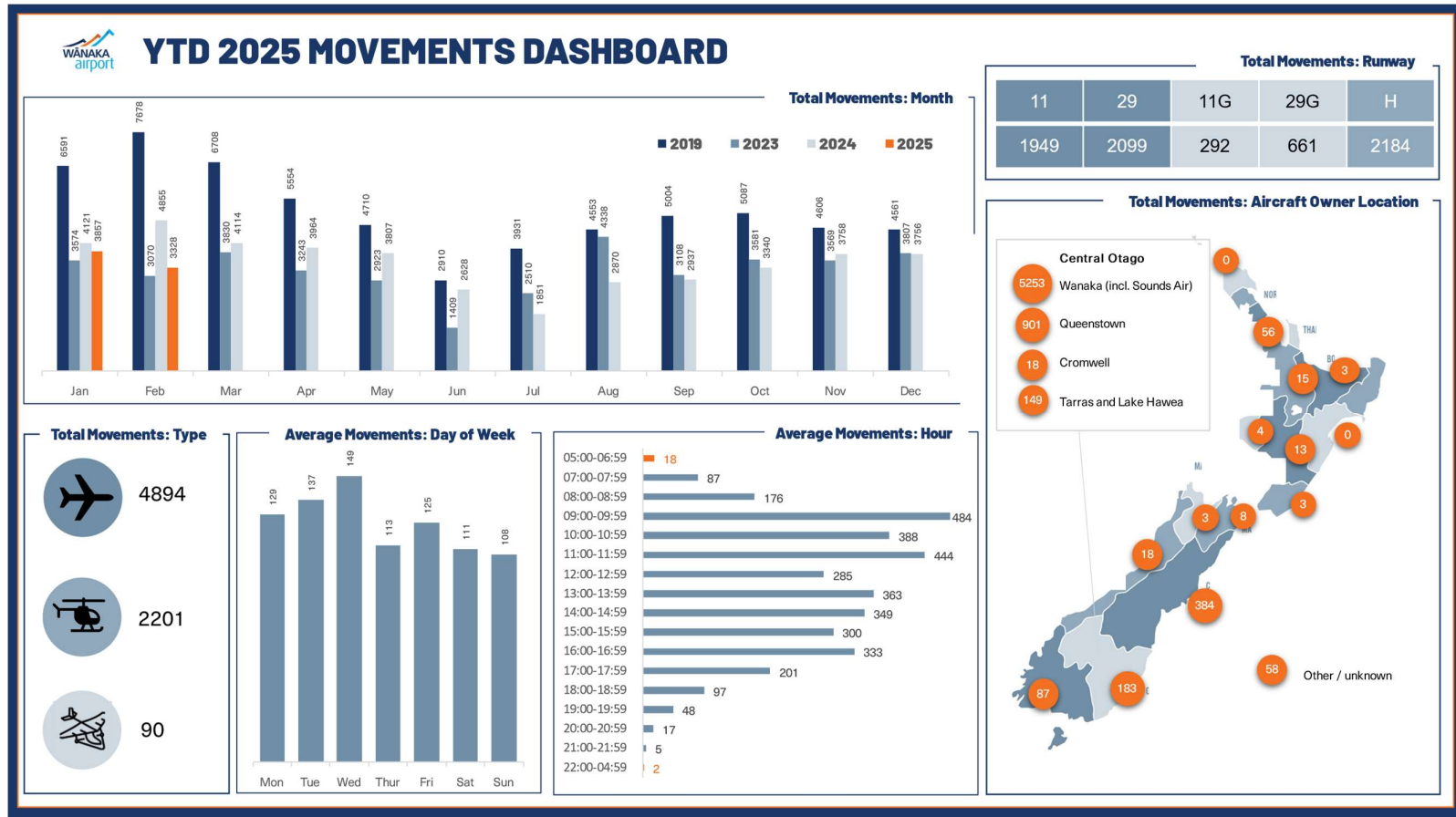
WĀNAKA AIRPORT LIASON COMMITTEE – 7 April 2025

WĀNAKA AIRPORT MANAGER'S REPORT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Aircraft Activity..... | 2 |
| 2 | Unplanned Engine Testing Incidents..... | 3 |
| 3 | Complaints Register Summary..... | 3 |
| | Noise Complaints..... | 3 |
| | Operational Complaints | 3 |
| 4 | Operational Report..... | 3 |

WĀNAKA AIRPORT LIASON COMMITTEE – 7 April 2025

1 AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY



2 UNPLANNED ENGINE TESTING INCIDENTS

There have been no unplanned engine testing incidents at Wānaka in the last two years.

3 COMPLAINTS REGISTER SUMMARY

Noise Complaints

Three noise complaints were received between November 2024 and February 2025.

| Date | Complaint | Response |
|--|---|---|
| 2 nd Jan 2025 0545hrs | A Wānaka resident contacted WKA to advise of a Heli lifting NZWF outside of ops hours and flying low over the township. | WKA Duty Manager identified and spoke to the operator on 8/1/2025 regarding operational hours and the process for approval to lift/land on TXY Y. |
| 3 rd February 2025 1635hrs | A Wānaka resident contacted the Airport to complain about the RNZAF Hercules final flyover. | The caller was referred to the RNZDF. |
| 23 rd February 2025 1203hrs | A Luggate resident complained about an orange plane flying low on approach to the airport over Luggate. Noticeable over last 2-3 weeks. | WKA Duty Manager responded requesting further information. |

Operational Complaints

There were no operational complaints received between November 2024 and February 2025.

4 OPERATIONAL REPORT

Safety

Safety reports continue to increase at Wānaka. This is partly due to the increased activity, but it is also a result of the focus of the Wānaka Operations Team to encourage reporting to identify safety issues. In January and February, 15 safety reports were received. Several of these reports involve 'circuit' irregularities. A circuit is a documented standard allowing an orderly flight path for take-off and landing at an aerodrome.

NASA 2025 Campaign

The NASA team has arrived at Wānaka Airport and intends to launch two balloons. NASA hosted an Operator briefing on 19 March. The launch window runs from the end of March through to May.

Fire-Water Tank Installation Phase 2

An additional three 30,000-litre water tanks will be installed next to the NASA Hangar and water tanks. This will complete the Fire Water project, resulting in a total of 27,000 litres of water available for fire suppression activities.

Taxiway Y Extension

Taxiway Y extension work was completed on 20 February 2025. A new sealed taxiway will service all hangars located along Spitfire Lane. The current drainage pit was also upgraded as part of the extension works.

Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee

April 2025



Contents

- Airfield Update
- Aircraft Movements
- Airfield Management
- Airport Masterplan
- Landing Fee Changes

Airfield Update

- NASA will undertake 2 balloon launches during March/April.
- Capital Projects:
 - Mustang Lane stormwater completed.
 - Taxiway Y extension completed.
 - Additional fire water tank installation underway.
 - Grass runway re-levelling and resurfacing scheduled for Spring 2025. (CAA Qualifying requirement)
- AWIB (Aerodrome and Weather Information Broadcast) installed, which is an automatically broadcast information bulletin for pilots.
- 3 Waters: investigations underway to link into the Luggate water supply upgrades to provide FW4 firefighting capability. Short term option to link off current feed to achieve FW3.
- The Private User Group has now agreed with our valuer's methodology and rental assessment. Lease documentation is being prepared.
- There are concerns about the long-term durability of the replacement seal on the main runway, particularly in high temperatures. An independent review of the specifications and workmanship is being undertaken.

Aircraft Movements

Wānaka is a Non-Certified General Aviation Airport. The easiest way to measure how busy the airport is by total annual movements.

A movement is either a take-off or landing of an aircraft.

Wānaka had its most aircraft movements in 2019. That year there were over 50,000 movements, with peak months recording more than 6,000 movements.

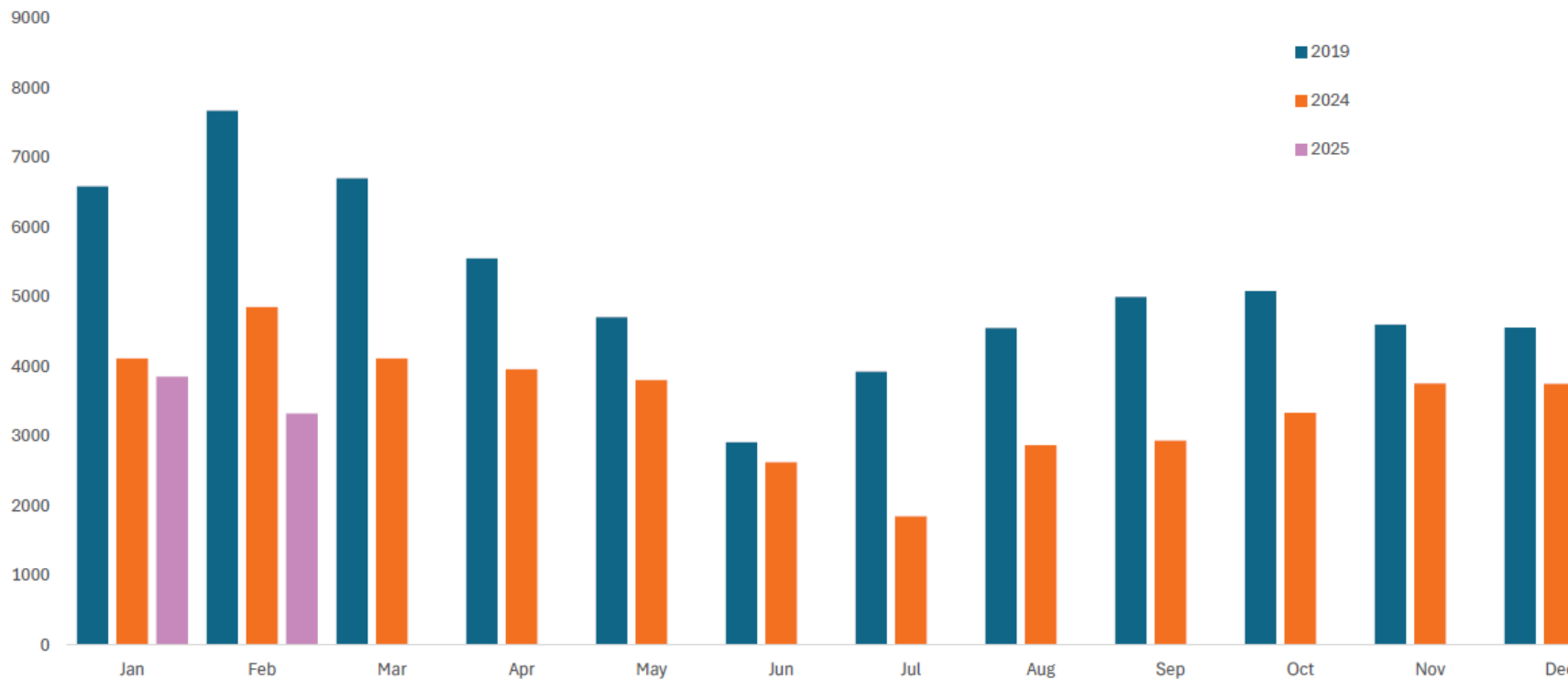
Covid-19 severely impacted Wānaka Airport. Reducing tourism and flight training.

We anticipate Wānaka Airport will achieve 40,000 aircraft movements over the next 12 months. Peak months are already recording 5-6000 movements.



Aircraft Movements

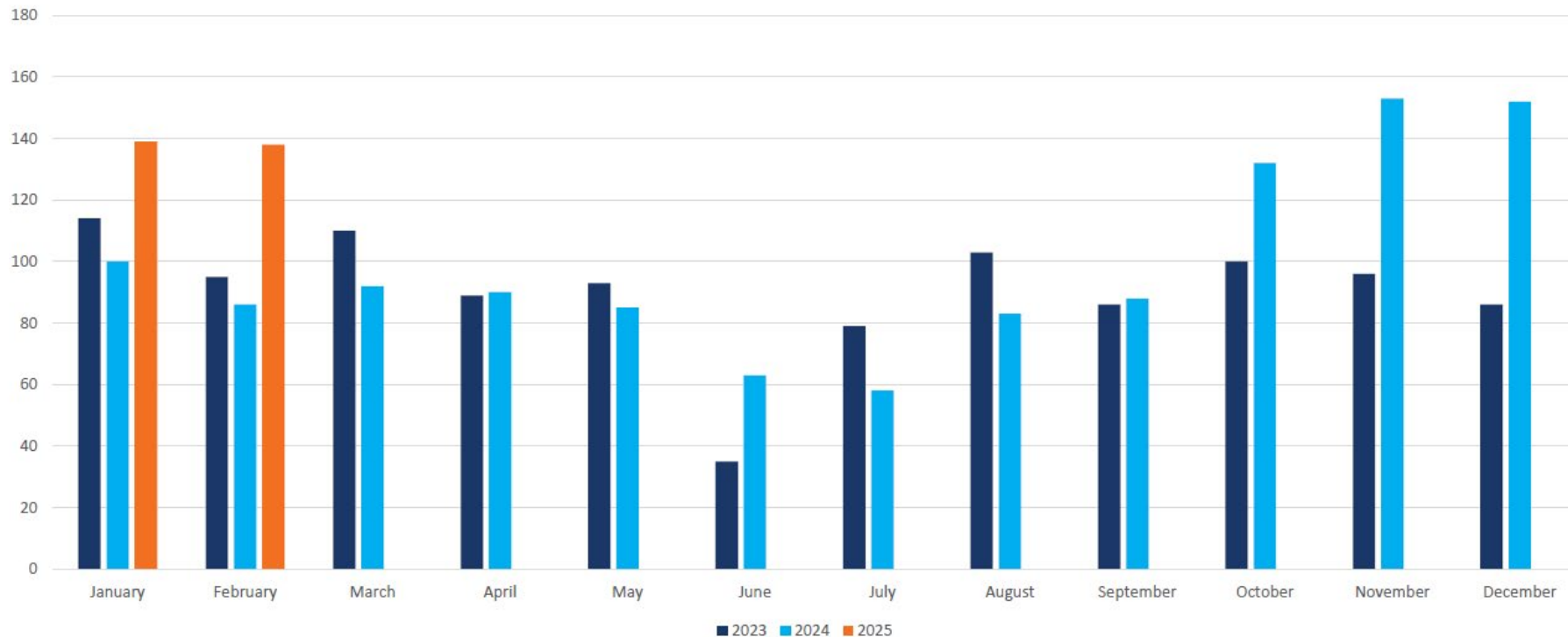
- The table below indicates monthly landings at Wānaka Airport through to February, compared to 2019 & 2024.
- The month of February was impacted by a nationwide AIMMS recording issue. A review of actual radio communications will be undertaken to retrospectively record the landings.



Aircraft Movements – Sounds Air

- The table below indicates monthly landings at Wānaka Airport for Sounds Air through to February, compared to 2023 & 2024.

Sounds Air Scheduled Services



Wānaka Airport Management

- QLDC has a Management Services Agreement (MSA) in place with QAC to manage the daily operations of the airport.
- Moving to Part 139 Qualifying status will require changes to this MSA arrangement.
- As at March 2025, the QAC Board agreed to modify the MSA to undertake the process for achieving CAA Qualifying Status by 01 July 2027.
- QAC involvement is essential as they have the necessary aeronautical expertise to support achieving Qualifying status.
- QAC expect to appoint a Wanaka Airport Manager in July.
- The Airport Manager will coordinate and manage the CAA qualifying requirements.
- This will include the coordination of capital works; particularly airside.



Wānaka Airport Masterplan

- QLDC will lead the development of future options and consultation for a Strategic Plan/Master Plan.
- This body of work commenced in December 2024.
- Consultation will be with numerous stakeholder groups, including users of the airport, and the wider community.
- An RFP has been issued to appoint an expert consultant to undertake community/stakeholder engagement. Appointment will be early April.
- June 2025 - Councillor/Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board Workshop on scenario development.



Landing & Parking Fee Changes

Fee Change Consultation

- The following fees are proposed for both aircraft landing and parking at Wanaka Airport. Public consultation commences 21st March, 2025.
- The fees have been independently assessed by an Aviation expert and the increases are recommended based on comparisons to similar airports.

7. Wānaka Airport Landing Fees

| | From * | To * | Change (\$) |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| 0–1500kg | \$13.00 | \$ 16.00 | \$ 3.00 |
| 1501-2500kg | \$19.00 | \$ 22.00 | \$ 3.00 |
| 2501-3000kg | \$31.00 | \$ 35.00 | \$ 4.00 |
| 3001-4000kg | \$43.00 | \$ 55.00 | \$ 12.00 |
| 4001-5000kg | \$55.00 | \$ 70.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 5001-8000kg | \$112.00 | \$ 135.00 | \$ 23.00 |
| 8001–12000kg | \$146.00 | \$ 180.00 | \$ 34.00 |
| 12001–18000kg | \$204.00 | \$ 260.00 | \$ 56.00 |
| 18001-20000kg | \$272.00 | \$ 330.00 | \$ 58.00 |
| 20001–25000kg | \$362.00 | \$ 420.00 | \$ 58.00 |

Wānaka Aircraft Parking

| | From * | To * | Change (\$) |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Grass Apron* | | | |
| 0-1500kg | \$ - | \$ 10.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| Asphalt Apron | | | |
| 0-1500kg | \$ 10.00 | \$ 20.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 1501-2500kg | \$ 15.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 2501-3000kg | \$ 25.00 | \$ 35.00 | \$ 10.00 |
| 3001-4000kg | \$ 35.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 4001-5000kg | \$ 45.00 | \$ 60.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 5001-8000kg | \$ 95.00 | \$ 110.00 | \$ 15.00 |
| 8001-12000kg | \$ 125.00 | \$ 145.00 | \$ 20.00 |
| 12001-18000kg | \$ 175.00 | \$ 200.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| 18001-20000kg | \$ 235.00 | \$ 260.00 | \$ 25.00 |
| 20001-25000kg | \$ 315.00 | \$ 350.00 | \$ 35.00 |

**24 hours (first hour free)*