

## West Auckland Airport Q and A

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### **What does airport authority status mean?**

Airport authority status provides for a range of powers and responsibilities under New Zealand legislation. Of particular note, it will allow:

- The airport to make its own bylaws (which must be approved by government).
- Compulsory acquisition of land (but only with approval from the Minister of Lands, and only through strict Public Works Act processes).
- The ability to apply to the Minister for the Environment for requiring authority status under the Resource Management Act. Among other things, requiring authority status allows an airport to give notice to a local authority (the Council) to designate land under the district plan.

### **What was the decision making process?**

The Ministry of Transport consulted with affected stakeholders, and provided advice to the Minister of Transport regarding the proposal. The final decision was made by Cabinet (government Ministers).

### **Will this give West Auckland Airport the authority to expand the airport?**

While the granting of airport authority status changes the powers and responsibilities the airport has under legislation, those powers are restrained through local and central government decision-making to ensure they are not misused.

Additionally, any substantial development plans at the airport would first be subject to Resource Management Act processes and would involve community input.

### **Will this mean larger aircraft, and more airport noise?**

On its own, airport authority status does not change the number or size of aircraft permitted to use the airport and surrounding airspace.

Noise pollution is primarily addressed under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). Section 9 of the RMA provides for territorial authorities (councils) to set noise emission controls for airports.

If you have a complaint about noise you should contact the airport or Council to discuss.

### **Why has this small, family-owned airport been given the same status as large international airports?**

Airport authority status is designed to provide a regulatory regime for the operation and management of airports regardless of size. Many of the airports around New Zealand hold airport authority status. These range from large international airports such as Auckland to smaller airfields such as Omarama in Southern Canterbury.

**Does the airport have any plans to develop the airport?**

To discuss future development plans please contact West Auckland Airport directly.

**Will the community be consulted if the airport is developed?**

Any significant development that may cause adverse effects is likely to be publicly notified, so that those affected by the proposal can make submissions. The decision to publicly notify is made by the Council on a case-by-case basis.

**Will flight paths change?**

Granting airport authority status does not affect flight paths.