



Te Uho O Te Nikau School: Aircraft Noise

Communications plan

This communications plan has been developed by the Ministry of Education, in consultation with Te Uho O Te Nikau School, Auckland International Airport Limited¹ (AIAL) and the Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand² (BARNZ). Its purpose is to ensure the school community is aware of the challenges and realities of operating a school in an area of elevated aircraft noise and the measures that are in place to manage these effects as far as practicable.

Background and strategic context

Te Uho O Te Nikau School is situated at 221 Flat Bush School Road, Flat Bush, Auckland, under the main flight path for Auckland Airport.

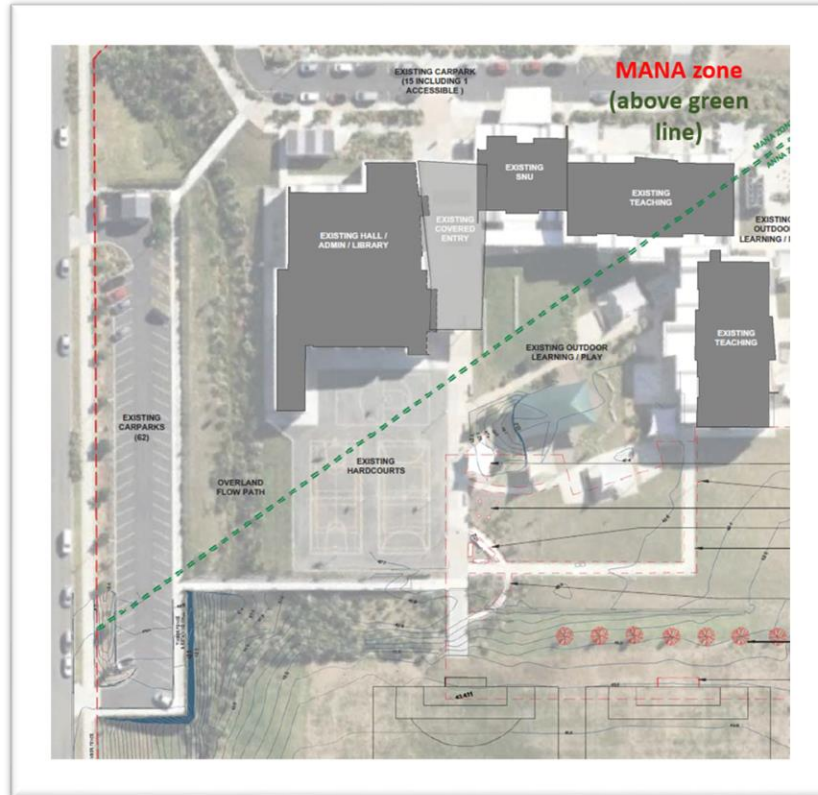
The nature of the operations at Auckland Airport mean it is not possible for the effects of aircraft noise to be internalised within AIAL's landholdings. Auckland Airport is authorised to operate up to noise levels specified in its designation. These noise levels have been modelled to 2044 and are expected to increase from existing levels to support the continued growth of airport operations.

Complimentary controls are in place in the Auckland Unitary Plan to protect Auckland Airport from the effects of Activities Sensitive to Aircraft Noise, like residential and education facilities, establishing or intensifying in areas of elevated aircraft noise. Key to this is the Aircraft Noise Overlay, which restricts development in areas of elevated aircraft noise.

The Te Uho O Te Nikau School site is located partially within the Moderate Aircraft Noise Area (MANA), which is an area that will experience elevated aircraft noise. Before establishing the school, careful consideration was given to the effect of this elevated noise.

¹ Auckland Airport is owned and operated by Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL). The Airport is New Zealand's largest and busiest airport and is a strategic infrastructure asset of critical national, regional and local importance.

² BARNZ is an incorporated society comprising member airlines operating scheduled and code share international and domestic services.



Addressing aircraft noise in buildings

The Ministry of Education has designed and built Te Uho O Te Nikau School with measures in place to limit the effect of aircraft noise on internal learning spaces.

All teaching spaces exceed Building Code requirements and incorporate advanced materials and design techniques to significantly reduce noise and comply with the Ministry of Education's [Designing Schools in NZ \(DSNZ\)](#) and [Designing Quality Learning Space \(DQLS\)](#) standards.

While the DSNZ is our overarching standard for school design, the DQLS series provides the requirements for the main internal environmental quality factors. These include standards (linked below) for:

- [acoustics](#)
- [indoor air quality and thermal comfort](#).

These DQLS documents have been developed to provide technical requirements that assist architects, designers and engineers in creating quality learning environments that are fit for purpose. The [DQLS – Acoustics](#) specifically set requirements and approved solutions for maximum acceptable noise levels in school buildings. These are detailed in the table below.

Maximum Indoor Noise Level			
	Ambient	HVAC	User-controlled indoor units
Gyms	50 dB	45dB	50 dB
Learning spaces Technology spaces Libraries Teacher workspaces Staff rooms Meeting rooms Offices	40 dB	40 dB	40 dB
Breakout spaces Music rooms Whare Halls	40 dB	35 dB	40dB
Auditoria	35 dB	30 dB	35 dB
Multimedia rooms Recording rooms	30 dB	25 dB	30 dB

In addition, Te Uho O Te Nikau School includes the following specific noise mitigation measures:

1. Acoustic treatment

- Sound Transmission Class rated walls
- Use of double-glazed windows
- Acoustic treatment to the roof, ceiling and wall coverings.

2. Mechanical ventilation

A heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system is in place at Te Uho O Te Nikau School to provide fresh air circulation with all external windows and doors closed (as required to mitigate aircraft noise).

This system also meets the Ministry’s thermal requirements and NZ Building Code insulation requirements, keeping the classrooms at a comfortable temperature.

Outdoor noise

It is not possible to physically mitigate aircraft noise in outdoor areas at the school. Staff will manage the outdoor curriculum to minimise effects.

Communications plan review and updates

This communications plan will be reviewed at the time of submitting each Outline Plan of Works to Auckland Council for Te Uho O Te Nikau related to school expansions to meet increased student capacity. Auckland Airport and BARNZ shall be consulted with respect to any proposed changes to the plan. When changes are made to this communications plan, an updated copy of the plan shall be provided to Auckland Airport and BARNZ.

Information about the MANA and noise mitigations in place will be available on the school website.

Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Communications approach	Responsibility of communication
Te Uho O Te Nikau Principal	Work together with the Ministry to understand the MANA, mitigation in place and what to do / who to contact if any issues or complaints from the school community.	Ministry of Education
Te Uho O Te Nikau School Board	Work together with the Ministry to understand the MANA, mitigation in place and what to do / who to contact if any issues or complaints from the school community.	Principal – with support from the Ministry if required
Te Uho O Te Nikau Staff	Information about the MANA is provided in application / interview process as well as available in enrolment packs and on the school website.	Principal
Te Uho O Te Nikau students and caregivers	Information about the MANA provided in enrolment packs, and available on the school website.	Principal
PPP contractor (Spotless)	Work together with the Ministry to understand the MANA, mitigation in place and what to do / who to contact if any issues.	Ministry of Education

	This is particularly important regarding maintenance of any existing noise mitigation – for example the HVAC system.	
Ministry staff who work with the school – including both property and education teams.	Information provided to the Property Advisor, Infrastructure Manager, Education Advisor and Manager Integrated Services to understand the MANA, noise mitigation in place and what to do / who to contact if any issues*. This is particularly important regarding noise mitigation in the future buildings (both temporary and permanent classrooms).	Ministry of Education
Auckland International Airport Limited	Consultation as agreed.	Ministry of Education
Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand	Consultation as agreed.	Ministry of Education

Complaint process

For any complaints received by the school about aircraft noise, the following process needs to be followed;

1. School receives the complaint – ideally in writing or a summary of the verbal complaint is compiled.
2. School sends the complaint to their Ministry Property Advisor who helps prepare a response based on the design, build and operational mitigations that have been put in place.
3. Property Advisor to send a summary of complaints, if any, to the Auckland International Airport Environmental Planning Manager each year.

Communications with school staff and community

Information about the MANA will be included in application and induction packs for staff, as well as student enrolment packs and on the school website, ensuring that from the outset all members of the school community are informed about the noise environment and the efforts made to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise.

Draft examples are included in the appendices of this plan.

A copy of this communication plan shall also be available to all staff and members of the school community upon request.

Key contacts

Ministry of Education	School Property Advisor	Kevin Gong Kevin.Gong@education.govt.nz
Te Uho O Te Nikau School	Principal Board Chair	Chris Herlihy chris@tenikau.school.nz Rikki Solomon rikki.s@tenikau.school.nz
Auckland International Airport Limited	Environmental Planning Manager	Mark Laurensen 021 086 88135 Mark.Laurensen@aucklandairport.co.nz
Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand	Executive Director	Cath O'Brien 021 730 55 cath@barnz.org.nz

Content for information sheet to be included in school enrolment packs; staff induction packs and the school website

Addressing aircraft noise

Te Uho O Te Nikau School is located partially within the Moderate Aircraft Noise Area, which is an area that will experience elevated aircraft noise due to its location under the main flight path for planes approaching and departing Auckland Airport.

Before establishing the school, careful consideration was given to the effect of this elevated noise. We want to assure you that this has been considered and mitigated in the design of our school including:

- Clever acoustic treatment to our classroom roofs, ceilings and walls.
- Double glazing of our windows.
- A ventilation system that means we can get fresh air inside – without having to open windows and doors.

We've made sure we've provided mitigations for the potential of aircraft noise to ensure a quality learning environment for students, and teaching / working environment for our staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me via chris@tenikau.school.nz.