

Minutes

Nelson Airport Noise and Environment Advisory Committee

Date: 25 November 2025

Time: 2.02pm – 2.55pm

Location: Reid Room, Nelson Airport

Attendees:

Catherine Taylor (CT)	Independent Chair	
Brendan Cook (BCo)	Nelson Airport Ltd (NAL)	CEO
Jesse Woods (JW)	NAL	Head of Operations
Jeff Cornwell (JC)	NAL	Health, Safety and Environment Manager
Beth Catley (BCa)	NAL	Head of Corporate Services
Corey Parsons (CP)	Nelson City Council (NCC)	Team Leader Environmental Compliance
Lew Solomon (LS)	NANAC	Chair & Technical Adviser
Peter Hay (PH)	NANAC	Secretary
Melinda Harvey (MH)	NANAC	Member
Grant May (GM)	Air NZ	Airport Manager
Marcus Day (MD) (via Teams)	Nelson Aviation College	
Tim Douglas-Clifford (TDC)	GCH Aviation	Pilot
Tracy East (TE) (via Teams)	Air NZ Nelson Turbo Prop Base	Maintenance Manager
Adam Arnold-Kelly (AAK)	Airways NZ	ATC Team Leader

Apologies: Crispin Phelan (Air NZ), Corey Parsons (lateness)



Item

1. Introduction – Jeff Cornwell

New NAL Health, Safety and Environment Manager Jeff Cornwell was introduced to the committee.

2. Confirmation of minutes of the 26 August 2025 Meeting

The committee confirmed the minutes with the following changes, subject to final review by The Chair and NANAC:

- **Item 2b - NAL Website Information:** After “...on the new site” add “Chair commented that all information should be available and in plain English and easy for anyone to find, for example, explanations about circuit training, times the Tower is manned and so on. The NAL website includes the Noise Management Plan which will be built on over time. Approved NANEAC minutes will be posted on the website.”
- **Item 5 - Noise Exceedance Report:** After “...wherever possible” add “NANAC requested that when this is not possible, that high power tests be carried out between 10pm and midnight”.
- **Item 7 a.i - Query - Flights After ATC Off-Watch :** Change second sentence to “Airways confirmed that the Tower normally goes off watch between 2200 and 0600 but must be on watch for all passenger flights of aircraft with more than 30 seats, when there were passengers on board.”
- **Item 7 a.iii - Request - NAC Electric Training Aircraft Update:** Add sentence to third paragraph: “NAC said they would get the information changed”.

Item 2a Tonkin + Taylor 5-Year Audit Report V2 was also discussed. NANAC said NANAC did not believe NANEAC accepted the findings of the Tonkin & Taylor report, that additional clarification from T&T was needed, and was concerned at the Ldn measurement as a trigger for future mitigation.

The Chair said the relevant factor was whether a requirement for measurements at the three Ldn locations was part of the terms of reference for the audit, which were agreed by NANEAC prior to the audit taking place. NAL confirmed it was not part of the scope.

Committee members were asked to confirm receipt of the final T+T Audit Report. NANAC members voted against receipt of the report given the number of their unanswered questions.

Item 2B (Website Information) was also discussed. NANAC questioned if the noise information was easy to find on the new site. NAL confirmed the site had a powerful Search function that ensured easy access to this information.



Item

Item 5 Noise Exceedence Report was also discussed. NANAC was not satisfied with the Marshall Day explanation for the Ldn measurement at the southern end.

Item 5 Noise Exceedence Report was further discussed. NANAC requested that NAL add information to its website to share Air NZ's comment that where it was not possible to conduct engine testing prior to 10pm, that it would be carried out as far as practical between 10pm – 12am. NAL said this would need to be discussed with Air NZ.

NANAC also requested NAL add the times the Airways Control Tower was on and off watch to the website.

3. **Matters Arising**

a. 26 August 2025 NANEAC Minutes Approval

As above

b. NANEAC Minutes on NAL Website

NAL confirmed the minutes are now on the website and an initial error in publication of the draft 7 May 2025 minutes had been corrected.

c. Nelson Aviation College Electric Aircraft Intentions

NAC confirmed it was committed in principle to purchasing electric aircraft. Further information would be available in 2026. Changes to the NAC website had been made for accuracy. A further mention of the number of aircraft NAC may elect to purchase would also be removed.

d. Night Flight Figures Accuracy

NAL described an anomaly in the July numbers due to the way data was being captured and shared, and subsequent interpretation. An aircraft did a series of circuits prior to 10pm, flew away from the circuit, then landed after 10pm. This was captured as all circuits taking place after 10pm for that flight. NAL has made Marshall Day aware of this type of scenario for future records.

The event had been corrected for July – October on the spreadsheets.

e. Flight Advisory Between 0000-0600



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NAL explained the new process had been developed, and NAL have responded to recent complaints with information about the process.

NAL had verbally advised common operators about the new procedure, which applied to all non-aeromedical flights between midnight and 6am. An AIP amendment will be in effect from February, formalising the requirement for operators to notify Nelson Airport of planned overnight movements. This will allow NAL to discuss mitigations with operators. In the meantime, the information will be shared in a 27 November supplement (interim information publication).

f. NANEAC Chair Appointment

NAL advised the committee that the Nelson City Council supports the reappointment of Catherine Taylor as independent chair of NANEAC for a further three-year term.

4. NANAC and NANEAC Memorandum of Understanding

The Chair explained the MOU had come about as a result of the May meeting. She had worked with governance advisor Judene Edgar and both parties to formalise in writing the terms of engagement between the parties. The MOU would be signed by both parties at the conclusion of the meeting.

5. Review of Airport Noise Graphs & Data

a. Ldn Reports - (July), August, September, October 2025

The Chair noted comments by NANAC that the data for the southern end looked odd. NANAC said a 10dB difference was a red flag, and could affect the Airnoise boundary.

NAL said it would take the point offline to discuss it with Marshall Day.

b. Night Flying Table - Updated incl. October 2025

NANAC commented that a new jet was based at Nelson Airport and asked if it would have its own category. NAL said that hadn't been discussed but there was no reason why it wouldn't be possible to add a separate category for jets.

NANAC questioned who SF34 was. NAL said the reference was to an Air Chathams charter service.

NANAC questioned the October night flights 'Other' category. ZKPAF conducted three landings and three takeoffs between midnight and 0520. This was not recorded in the 'Other' fixed-wing category. NANAC asked who produces the table. NAL explained the method.

Airways said it would have to check how the reports were generated to confirm whether ZKPAF was included in the base data. The committee discussed the possibility that non-IFR flights would not be captured. NAL advised that NAL would begin to capture those through the new night flying advisory process.



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NANAC shared its view that Ldn and the number of night flights would be understated within the data. NANAC questioned whether private jets flew via IFR (instrument flight rules) or VFR (visual flight rules). Airways confirmed IFR.

6. **Review of Noise Complaints (August 4, September 17, October 4)**

NANAC said it had received comments from members and non-members that not everyone is receiving acknowledgement of receipt, or a follow-up summary, in response to a noise complaint.

NAL expressed regret that not all responses were as prompt as it would hope for. NAL would review its process for responding to complaints to ensure acknowledgements were being sent.

7. **Engine Testing Noise Summary (January – October 2025)**

The Chair said 5 exceedences had been reported to NCC.

NANAC said its view was that an engine test conducted on 16 Feb at 0120 on ZKNEB in was a breach not an exceedance as it was not scheduled to depart until 10.40am. The Chair said that was a matter for NCC to consider.

The Chair congratulated the Air NZ RM team on the data being produced. Air NZ RM said the team was committed to social responsibility and wanted the best outcome for the community.

8. **Engine Testing – Air NZ NTPB Update**

Air NZ RM said additional testing on the length of shelter was being conducted to consider concerns about turbulence and safety. There was nothing further to report.

9. **General Business**

NANAC asked if NAL was considering adopting Envirosuite or something similar to provide a real time publicly-accessible digital noise monitoring system. NAL said it wasn't familiar with the system and would look into it.

10. **2026 Meeting Dates Proposed (24 Feb, 26 May, 25 Aug, 24 Nov)**

The committee confirmed the meeting dates for 2026.

Action List



Due Date	Action Title	Owner(s)
25 December 2025	NAL to update draft minutes of 26 August meeting for final review by CT and NANAC.	Jesse Woods
25 December 2025	NAL to review complaints process to ensure prompt response	Jeff Cornwell
24 February 2026	NAL add “Jets” column to Other category in Night Flights table	Jesse Woods
24 February 2026	NAL to query 10dB discrepancy within Ldn reports with Marshall Day	Jesse Woods
24 February 2026	NAL to discuss with Air NZ request to include additional engine testing commentary on website	Beth Catley