



Runway Extension Planning Framework Fact Sheet

Why extend the runway?

At 1346m, Nelson Airport's runway is one of the shortest in the world for the number of flights and types of planes we host. This leads to weight restrictions for airlines, limiting the number of bags and passengers they can carry, particularly in certain weather conditions. It also limits the type of aircraft that can fly to Nelson. Our runway may be too short for future aircraft types, including more sustainably-powered models.

Extending the runway will:

- Remove the weight restrictions, allowing airlines to carry full loads (which is more efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible)
- Enable future aircraft fleets to operate at Nelson, protecting our connectivity to the rest of the country and the world

When will it happen?

The exact timing depends on airline requirements, but we expect it to be about 10 – 15 years in the future.

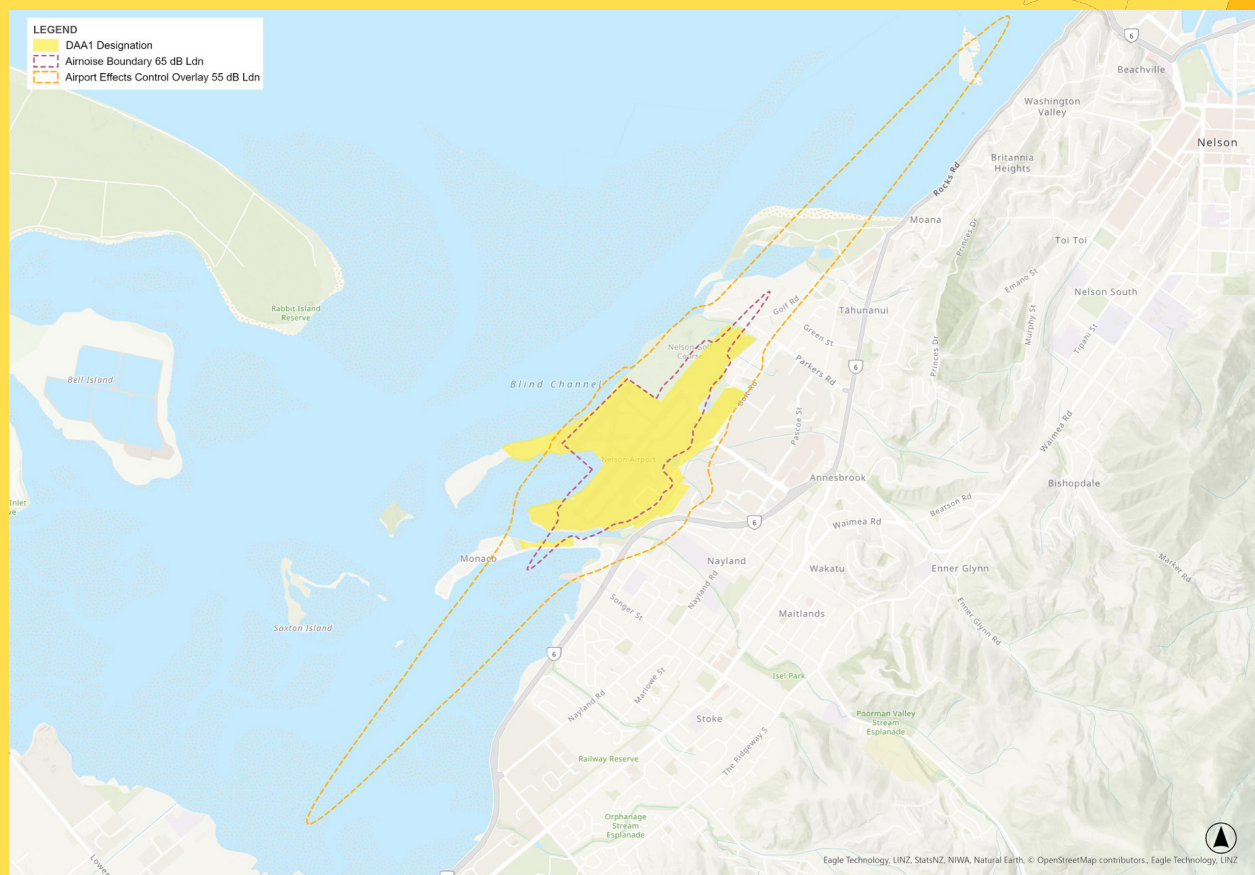
How much will it cost?

It's too early to say what the extension will cost, as is it at least 10 years until it is built and detailed design hasn't been carried out yet. Up to this point the airport's focus has been on protecting an ability to carry out an extension when it's needed through appropriate land designations and rules in the Nelson Resource Management Plan.

Who will pay for it?

Nelson Airport pays for all its capital works through its own funding sources (revenue and debt). It does not draw on any Council funding for either its operational or capital spending.

My property is in the airport's noise contours. What does that mean for me?



Properties within airport noise contours remain subject to planning controls intended to ensure healthy living environments for residents and to reduce the potential for reverse sensitivity effects on the airport's operations. Reverse sensitivity effects are where new activities (such as housing) locate near an existing airport and then complain or seek to limit normal airport operations such as noise. The planning controls aim to manage residential intensification within airport noise contours and make sure new or replacement homes are carefully designed to take account of the effects of aircraft noise on the people who will live there.

The controls that apply depend on where your property is located. Within the Airnoise Boundary (purple line):

- Building new homes is prohibited
- Replacements or alterations to bedrooms or living areas requiring building consent must include acoustic insulation and mechanical ventilation

Within the Airport Effects Control Overlay (orange line):

- Building a new home requires resource consent and must include acoustic insulation and mechanical ventilation
- Replacements or alterations to bedrooms or living areas requiring building consent must include acoustic insulation and mechanical ventilation
- Resource consent required for residential intensification of more than one house per 600sqm section.

What is the impact of extending the runway on the airport's neighbours?

Nelson Airport will need to acquire some land owned by the Nelson Golf Club to facilitate a future runway extension. We have been in discussions with the club for many years, and an agreed process is in place for confirming a land purchase when it's needed for the runway.

Changing the length of the runway has a small impact on noise experienced by people living nearby. The change in noise related solely to the longer runway is very small (1-2 decibels, which is imperceptible to most people). What will have a more noticeable effect on airport noise over time is increased flights as our population and demand for flights grows.

Will you use EMAS (Engineered Materials Arrestor System)?

EMAS has been used as an alternative and in addition to Runway End Safety Areas at some airports that have challenging geographical constraints (such as Queenstown and Wellington). It's too early to say whether it might be a good option for Nelson Airport, and what the effect of using it would be here. That's something that we will be looking at when we begin designing the runway extension. That work is still several years away.

Wouldn't extending the runway south be a better option?

There are a range of reasons why a southern extension isn't being pursued, including:

- Significant adverse environmental impacts
- Significant engineering challenges and costs
- A very challenging pathway to gain resource consent due to coastal marine area disturbance

Will the airport make more noise?

Over time, yes. As our population grows, and more flights are added by airlines to meet demand, overall noise levels will gradually increase.



Am I eligible for funded acoustic mitigation?

Depending on where your property is located, and how much aircraft noise your property experiences, you may be eligible for fully-funded acoustic mitigation support from Nelson Airport in future.

Every year the airport will carry out an assessment of aircraft noise levels at properties within its noise contours. When noise reaches a certain level (60 dB Ldn) at a property, the airport will make a mitigation offer to the property owner.

Properties receiving 60 – 64dB Ldn will be eligible for:

- Mechanical ventilation to living spaces (such as lounges, bedrooms) to maintain indoor air quality with windows closed

Properties within the Airnoise boundary will be eligible for:

- Acoustic insulation treatment to achieve 40dB Ldn in living spaces and mechanical ventilation to maintain indoor air quality with windows closed

When will the airport start paying for acoustic mitigation for eligible properties?

In the 12 months from 14 July 2026, Nelson Airport will prepare an Acoustic Mitigation Programme, after which it will begin making mitigation offers to eligible property owners.

What else is the airport doing to support the community?

Nelson Airport has an active community support programme, which includes annual funding and partnership valued around \$250,000 provided to organisations including:

- Tāhunanui Community Hub
- Nelson Tasman Hospice
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson Tasman
- Nelson Tasman Rescue Helicopter
- Nelson Arts Festival
- Brook Waimārama Sanctuary
- The Nelson Giants
- Whenua Iti Outdoors
- The Nelson Regional Development Agency
- Fresh FM

From 2027 we will introduce a specific Tāhunanui Community Fund to support activities and initiatives within the Tāhunanui area. The fund will be administered in partnership with the Tāhunanui Business and Citizens Association and Nelson City Council.

