

# Submission on developing the Aotearoa New Zealand Aerospace Strategy

## Your name and organisation

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<b>Organisation (if applicable)</b>	New Zealand Airports Association (NZ Airports)

## Overview of the Aerospace Strategy

- Question 1:** Do the four areas above provide the right basis for the Aerospace Strategy?
- Question 2:** What are the critical factors that you see for aerospace sector development?
- Question 3:** How would an Aerospace Strategy help you?

**Please type your submission below. If applicable, please indicate the question(s) to which you are responding.**

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the NZ Aerospace Strategy. We support the strategy, and applaud the ambition and forward looking pillars and goals it sets out.

Our comments are limited to a small number of areas of particular interest to the airport sector, and where we haven't commented it can be taken that we support the draft.

Q2. The critical factors for airports are the maintenance of high levels of safety and security, and a regulatory framework and outcomes (for current and new aviation and space activities) that serve New Zealand well. A concern we have is that in supporting and enabling new and emerging technologies, the current safe, effective and transparent aviation regulatory framework may lose its integrity and changes may prove to be latent failures.

Q3. Sustainable air transport (for passengers and freight) is essential to the future success of the sector and its key contribution to regional and national economic, environmental and social development.

We also see potential benefits to aviation from space-based technologies that will enhance the efficiency, utility and safety of air transport – for example in air navigation and collision avoidance.

## Area One - A strategy for building our aerospace sector

- Question 4:** Is the 2030 Future State set out in a way that enables New Zealand to build on its existing advantages to develop a leading place in the global aerospace economy?
- Question 5:** Will the 2030 Future State support your ambitions for growth and participation in the sector?
- Question 6:** What barriers are there to optimising sector growth?
- Question 7:** How could the government and the sector work together to achieve the 2030 Future State?
- Question 8:** How can the Government enable Māori ambitions for the sector?

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## Area Two - Building strong foundations (Three Pillars)

**Question 9:** What do you think of the Three Pillars and do you think they will support the 2030 Future State?

**Question 10:** What else would you like to see in the Three Pillars?

**Question 11:** What actions and initiatives could the sector focus on to support the Three Pillars?

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Q9. NZ Airports particularly welcomes Pillar Three – Aerospace Nation. A positive narrative and greater public understanding are necessary to counterbalance the perceptions – often noisily promoted - that aerospace activities (including aviation) have generally poor outcomes for the environment. New Zealand without aviation is a distant, small, isolated society and economy with a rapidly deteriorating standard of living. Aerospace is indeed a pillar of the future nation, enhancing wellbeing and positively transforming the way we live and work.

## Area Three - Goals for 2030

**Question 12:** What do you think of the Goals for 2030?

**Question 13:** Are the goals framed in a way that will enable New Zealand to build on its strengths and comparative advantages to achieve the 2030 Future State?

**Question 14:** What activities and milestones can help us achieve these Goals?

**Question 15:** Where do you see yourself in realising these Goals?

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Q12. We strongly support draft GOAL ONE. Low emission flight is the future of aerospace and aviation. The airport sector is committed to ensuring that supporting infrastructure is available in the right places at the right time. Leaders in this field already exist among New Zealand's airports, serving as models and mentors for the sector.

We note the importance of Government investment for some of the key enablers – such as sustainable aviation fuels which will form a critical bridge to future low-carbon aviation technologies.

We strongly support draft GOAL TWO - safe integration of all forms of autonomous aerial vehicles. The draft strategy correctly notes that safely integrating all forms of aerial vehicles, and potentially large numbers of them (whether autonomous or not), into existing aviation systems is a major challenge. Maintaining very high levels of safety for air passenger transport is our primary concern.

Q14. In our view the work to date on integrating unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) into the aviation system can be seen as a test case for emerging technologies and has not been completely successful.

This raises questions around whether:

- regulatory principles and practices (for example the design of civil aviation rules, and the monitoring and enforcement of those rules) and
- air navigation system design (for example the separation in airspace of manned and unmanned/autonomous operations; and air traffic management systems that are fit for purpose for new types and mixes of air traffic)

are appropriate, aligned, and keeping pace with innovation and growth.

We would like to see more work on the issues identified above.

## Area Four - Pathway to the 2030 Future State

**Question 16:** What policies, ideas, actions, and/or initiatives would you like to see in the Action Plan to help achieve the ambitious 2030 Future State?

**Question 17:** What would be the benefits of these actions and how would they help grow the New Zealand aerospace sector?

**Question 18:** How would you like to be involved in the delivery of the Aerospace Strategy?

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