

MINUTES OF THE RANGIORA AIRFIELD ADVISORY GROUP HELD AT 5.30PM ON WEDNESDAY, 28 MAY 2025, IN THE CANTERBURY AERO CLUB ROOMS AT THE RANGIORA AIRFIELD, MERTON ROAD, FERNSIDE

PRESENT

Steve Noad (SN) [Chairperson]

Bruce Drake (BD)

John Dugdale (JD)

David Harnett (DH)

Buzz Harvey (BH)

Paul Williams (PW) [Councillor]

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE:

Duncan Roxborough (DR) [Waimakariri District Council]

1. WELCOME

The Chairperson welcomed the members present and declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

2. APOLOGIES

THAT the Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group

- (a) **Received** and sustained apologies for leave of absence from Keith Vallance, Joan Ward and Owen Stewart

CARRIED

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group – 23 April 2025

Moved: B Harvey

Seconded: B Drake

THAT the Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group:

- (a) **Confirms**, as a true and accurate record, the circulated Minutes of the Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group meeting held on 23 April 2025.

CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING (From Minutes)

4.1 Fencing Plan and Legislation

DR reported that the draft Fencing Plan had been completed. However, O Stewart still needed to discuss the fencing design at the Way2Go hangar with Rob Kittow about the fencing at his hangar. O Stewart was requested to set up an on-site meeting with R Kittow.

4.2 Runway Seeding Update

DR noted that the matter had been discussed extensively at the previous meeting. However, he was in the process of compiling a memo to the Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group (RAAG), summarising the information provided, the proposed maintenance of the runway and setting out the way forward.

SN reported that Chris Pennell, who had previously advised O Stewart on which seed to use, had suggested that the RAAG consider planting fescue grass, as Avinex grass had not proved successful. It was suggested that DR meet with C Pennell to discuss the various grass seed options.

BD noted that he had received additional information from his recommended contractor, and the direct drilling proposed would be 75 millimetres apart (an agricultural seed drill). BD would, however, share the information with DR for inclusion in the memo.

JD reminded the RAAG of the importance of ensuring that the runways were not mowed too short, allowing the grass to grow effectively. DR advised that the runways would be mowed 50 millimetres instead of the 30 millimetres in the past.

BH believed mowing the runways to 50 millimetres was still too low, if compared to other airfields. He, therefore, suggested that the Council's contractor be requested to mow the grass to a height of between 80 and 100 millimetres.

DR undertook to provide the RAAG with the aforementioned memo before the sowing season the following autumn.

5. MAINTENANCE

5.1 Taxiway Update

Hopefully, the Site Management Plan will be finalised in the new financial year, allowing the Council to obtain a Resource Consent to do excavation.

5.2 Fencing Plan and Legislation

See paragraph 4.1 above.

5.3 TieUpp Aviation / Lot 18 Taxiway

DR explained that the Council was working on short, medium and long-term solutions for the problems being experienced around Lots 17 and 18. The short-term solution was to enable dialogue between parties and to coordinate movements. To facilitate this, a Cooperation Agreement had been drafted, approved by the Council's Management and sent to both users for their review and feedback. Additionally, the required signs related to vehicles giving way to aircraft taxiing with wings overhanging the road and the P10 Loading Zone were currently being manufactured. They would hopefully be installed within the next two weeks.

As a medium-term solution, the Council was considering the option to open the taxiway to the east; however, this would be challenging and had not progressed much further at this stage. In the long term, the Council would need to consider whether a business should operate in that part of the Rangiora Airfield. DR confirmed that Doug Anderson had signed the lease agreements, and the subleasing of the hangar would be discussed with him as part of the Lease Audit.

PW raised a concern regarding the fuel tank at Lot 17, and DR advised that the fuel tank was installed without the Council's permission and was not covered in the lease. Hence, the fuel tank would also be discussed with D Anderson. The fuel tank had received external certification; however, the Council may require further work or approvals.

Responding to PW's question, BH explained that when he made inquiries regarding the possible installation of a mogas dispensing unit at the Rangiora Airfield. The advice received from GOfuel was not to have a mogas installation at an airfield due to the quality assurance system associated with 91 and 95 grade fuel. Therefore, the only current option for the Canterbury Recreational Airfield Club (CRAC) was a mobile fuel tank, which was filled every Thursday.

5.4 OLS Work Update

DR noted that O Stewart reported that he was still waiting for ECan to confirm when they would trim the trees on the riverbed, which infringed the obstacle limitation surfaces (OLS).

6. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

6.1 SMS Manual Update

DR reported that the Risk Register had been circulated to RAAG members for comments. Once this had been finalised, the SMS Manual Update would be complete. RAAG members were requested to provide any feedback on the Risk Register to O Stewart.

6.2 Aeronautical Information Publication New Zealand Rangiora Landing Plate (AIPNZ RT) Update

SN advised that an update was submitted to Aeropath prior to the October 2025 promulgation. One of the significant changes would be the southerly runway changes from 04 22 to 03 21, so some education would be needed.

6.3 Motocross Track on Merton Road, Rangiora

SN noted that a landowner adjacent to the Rangiora Airfield had developed a motocross track on the eastern side of the Airfield. He observed that over the weekend, the young people were congregating at the airfield fence right in line with the runway. He was concerned about the safety of the young people if an aircraft accidentally missed the runway and crashed into the fence.

DR confirmed that staff could meet with the landowner to discuss the matter of safety and potentially ask the young people not to gather right in line with the runway. He noted that O Stewart had previously spoken to the landowner regarding the Council's concern about the dust being generated by multiple riders or club activities. However, the landowner indicated that this would not occur as it was a private track built for his son.

7. **AIRFIELD INCIDENTS**

7.1 Near miss between ZK-LIL and ZK-EBM

SN reported that on 10 May 2025, at the Canterbury Aero Club's competition day, the Club was conducting forced landings without power. Aircraft ZK-LIL taxied out in front of aircraft ZK-EBM on the final approach for a forced landing, which was approximately 200 feet from touchdown. Being on the grid, SN called out to aircraft ZK-LIL but received no response, and aircraft ZK-EBM had to perform a go-around.

8. NOISE COMPLAINTS

SN confirmed that no noise complaints were received in May 2025.

9. FINANCE AND GENERAL

9.1 Fees and Charges Review Process

DR confirmed that the Council was still reviewing the fees and charges.

9.2 Septic Tank

Responding to a question from PW, BH commented that the septic tank at the BKD Engineering/Aerofix/ATC building was leaking, and a plumber would be emptying the tank and trying to fix it.

Additionally, SN noted that the septic tank behind the Canterbury Aero Club building was installed in 1958 and had long since exceeded its useful lifespan. It was being kept going by regular cleaning.

9.3 Update on the Daniel Smith Industries Ltd development

The RAAG adjourned from 6.05pm to 6.40pm for a workshop to discuss the access agreements for the proposed Daniel Smith Industries Ltd development adjacent to the Rangiora Airfield. Refer to workshop notes attached.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

- SN - Noted that the Minutes of the RAAG meetings were not uploaded to the Council's website. The RAAG was advised that the Council's Governance Team would ensure that the RAAG Minutes were uploaded after each meeting.
- BH - Requested the Council to sweep the gravel from Merton Road, Rangiora. It was suggested that BH submit a service request to the Council via Snap, Send, Solve.

NEXT MEETING

The next Rangiora Airfield Advisory Group meeting was scheduled for 5.30pm, on Wednesday, 25 June 2025.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6.42PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date