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**Request for Military Operating Area  
New Zealand Defence Force  
Trentham - Wellington  
Airspace user consultation**

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## Introduction

The New Zealand Defence Force submitted an application in March 2024 for a Military Operational Area (MOA) to be designated for the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). This area is currently utilised by the Trentham Military Base with a Danger Area NZD621 being designated in the area for Live Firing and RPAS activities.

## Civil Aviation Rules context

Civil Aviation Rule Part 71 provides the regulatory context to designate Military Operating Areas, as special use airspace. Specifically, 71.151 prescribes the criteria that the Director must consider in designating special use airspace, as below:

### 71.151 General

*(a) The Director may designate special use airspace under this Subpart if the Director considers such airspace is necessary—*

- (1) in the interests of safety or security within the civil aviation system; or*
- (2) in the interests of national security; or*
- (3) for any other reason in the public interest.*

*(b) The Director must ensure that each portion of airspace designated under this Subpart is as small as practicable consistent with the activities for which the area is required.*

Further, 71.153 prescribes the criteria for designating military operating areas, detailing the Director and administering agency responsibilities:

### 71.155 Military operating areas

*(a) The Director may—*

- (1) designate a portion of airspace as a military operating area to segregate military activities from other traffic; and*
- (2) impose conditions under which—*

- (i) aircraft may be permitted to fly within that military operating area; and*
- (ii) an administering authority specified under paragraph (b)(2) must operate.*

*(b) The Director must—*

- (1) specify the type of activity for which each military operating area is designated; and*
- (2) specify the administering authority responsible for each military operating area; and*
- (3) identify each military operating area by the ICAO nationality letters of the applicable State followed by the letter “M” followed by a number.*

*(c) The administering authority responsible for a military operating area—*

*(1) must manage—*

- (i) the entry of aircraft into the military operating area; and*
- (ii) the operation of aircraft within the military operating area; and*
- (iii) the exit of aircraft from the military operating area; and*

*(2) if the military operating area is designated as being made active by NOTAM, must at least 24 hours before the military operating area is to become active, give to the New Zealand NOTAM Office notice of that military operating area becoming active, except that in the case of emergencies less than 24 hour's notice may be given; and*

*(3) may, within any conditions imposed by the Director under paragraph (a)(2)(ii), impose conditions under which an aircraft may be operated within the military operating area*

## **Proposed Areas and rational**

The proponent has provided information to petition for the area as below:

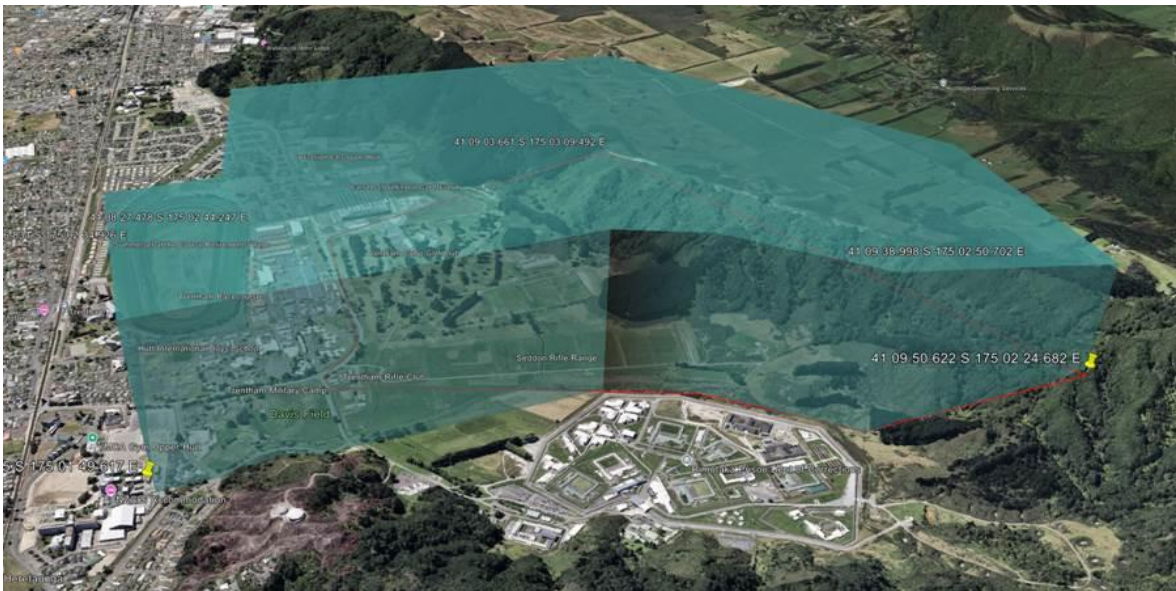
1. Enforcement of national security requirements in accordance with the Defence Act 1990;
2. Compliance under New Zealand Protective Security Requirements (NZPSR);
3. Rapid detection, identification and situational awareness of the Trentham Defence Area;
4. Increase shooting and demolition ranges safety through real time visual detection of dangerous areas prior to and during live firing operations;
5. Real time detection of after hour's public intrusions on to ranges;
6. Increased safety for aircraft flights over ranges and explosive storage facilities.

The requested area requested by NZDF encompasses an area comprising the current Danger Area NZD621 and further volume of airspace to incorporate the entirety of the Trentham Military Base land. The airspace boundaries proposed have been simplified over the land extent for ease of navigation and reference for pilots.

The vertical extent of the proposed area is 1500 ft AMSL – the same as existing Danger Area NZD621.

It is proposed that the current Danger Area NZD621 will be disestablished in conjunction with a successful MOA designation at the same site.

The proposed area is depicted in various views below. Note the existing Danger Area boundary in red.





### **Possible effect to IFR and VFR aircraft**

The proposed MOA is located outside of controlled airspace, with the administering authority proposed as NZ Army Range Control, HQTRSC.

There are no instrument flight procedures in the vicinity that are likely to be affected.

Adjacent to the proposed MOA is Trentham racecourse – known to be occasionally used by aircraft as an aerodrome and not published in the AIPNZ. If the MOA is successful pilots will likely need to gain administering authority approval to operate from this aerodrome.

## **Consultation**

Prior to designating airspace, Civil Aviation Rule 71.9 requires the Director to consult with affected persons, organisations and representative groups within the aviation industry before making a designation or classification of airspace.

The Director invites feedback in regard to the proposed airspace permanent publication.

This document will be sent directly to the organisations listed below. It would be appreciated if you would kindly forward the document to your members for consideration and comment.

### **Aerodrome operators (charted aerodromes/heliports only)**

- Wellington aerodrome
- Paraparaumu aerodrome
- Masterton aerodrome
- Otaki aerodrome

### **Operators, Organisations and User Groups**

- Airways Corporation of New Zealand
- Lifeflight Wellington
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
- New Zealand Aviation Federation
- New Zealand Helicopter Association
- Recreational Aircraft Association of New Zealand
- Balloon Association of New Zealand
- Gliding New Zealand
- Kapiti Districts Aero Club
- Kapiti Heliworx
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
- Sport Aircraft Association New Zealand
- Sport Aviation Corp
- Wellington Wairarapa Gliding Club
- Upper Hutt Gliding Club
- Wellington Model Aeroplane Club
- Wellington Aero Club
- Trentham Racecourse

This document is also available on the CAA website at the following link:

[2024 airspace reviews | aviation.govt.nz](https://www.caa.govt.nz/2024-airspace-reviews)

Notification that this document has been posted online will be sent to CAA email notification subscribers to Airspace Notifications – Briefing Areas 3, 5 and 6

## **Submissions**

This document forms part of the consultation process. Submissions are sought from any interested person, organisation or representative group.

Submissions are accepted either electronically or via mail, addressed to:

Team Coordinator  
Aviation Security and Infrastructure  
Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand  
PO Box 3555  
Wellington 6140

Email: [aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz](mailto: aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz)

## **Reference – 24/ASD/79 Request for Military Operating Area Trentham**

Closing date for submissions to this proposal is **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024**.

For further information contact:

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