
2017 Taranaki Airspace Review

Summary of Submissions

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Overview

As outlined in the CAA 2015-2018 Airspace Review Plan document, airspace over the Taranaki region is under review with changes to be effective 9 November 2017.

The review is aligned with the planned introduction of new performance based navigation (PBN) procedures currently being designed by Airways Corporation of New Zealand.

This review comprises all of the airspace detailed on the C6 visual navigation charts covering the area westward of a line from Tirua Point to Waiinu Beach.

Airspace includes:

- controlled airspace
- VFR transit lanes
- general aviation areas
- restricted areas
- military operating areas
- danger areas
- low flying zones
- mandatory broadcast zones
- VFR reporting points
- common frequency zones

Initial consultation commenced with airspace users at the end of June 2016. Cut-off for submissions was 7 September 2016.

Submissions received

There was one submission was received from the Taranaki Gliding Club.

Summary of requested airspace changes

Controlled airspace

Airways is currently working on the final designs for the Taranaki airspace. Unfortunately, this will not be available until just prior to Christmas. Further consultation with users will take place early in January 2017.

VFR transit lanes

There are no VFR transit lanes in the review area.

General aviation areas

The Taranaki Gliding Club has requested the establishment of two new general aviation areas (GAA), active by notification to ATC as follows.

GAA 1:

Refer to the pink marked area in Figure 1 below.

Taranaki Gliding Club advised their preferences for this area:

- First: GAA with an upper limit 5500 ft AMSL
- Second: GAA with an upper limit 5000 ft AMSL
- Third: Smaller GAA in sections 1 and 2 only, with an upper limit of 5500 ft AMSL

In their application for the designation of a GAA, Taranaki Gliding Club stated:

During summer thermals (and cloud base) often go above 4500ft AMSL. We anticipate opening and using this area approximately 25 afternoons per year during the summer cross country soaring season (October to March).

GAA 2:

Refer to the orange marked area in Figure 1 below.

For this area of airspace, Taranaki Gliding Club's preferences are:

- First: raise the lower level of controlled airspace to 9500 ft AMSL
- Second: designate a GAA with an upper limit of 9500 ft AMSL

In support of their application, the Taranaki Gliding Club stated:

When the wind blows from the SW and atmospheric conditions are favourable a mountain wave system sets up to the NE side of the Pouakai/Taranaki saddle with the secondary wave approximately at 12 DME NP. We anticipate using this area approximately 25 days (during daylight) per year for wave flying when the wind is strong from the SW.

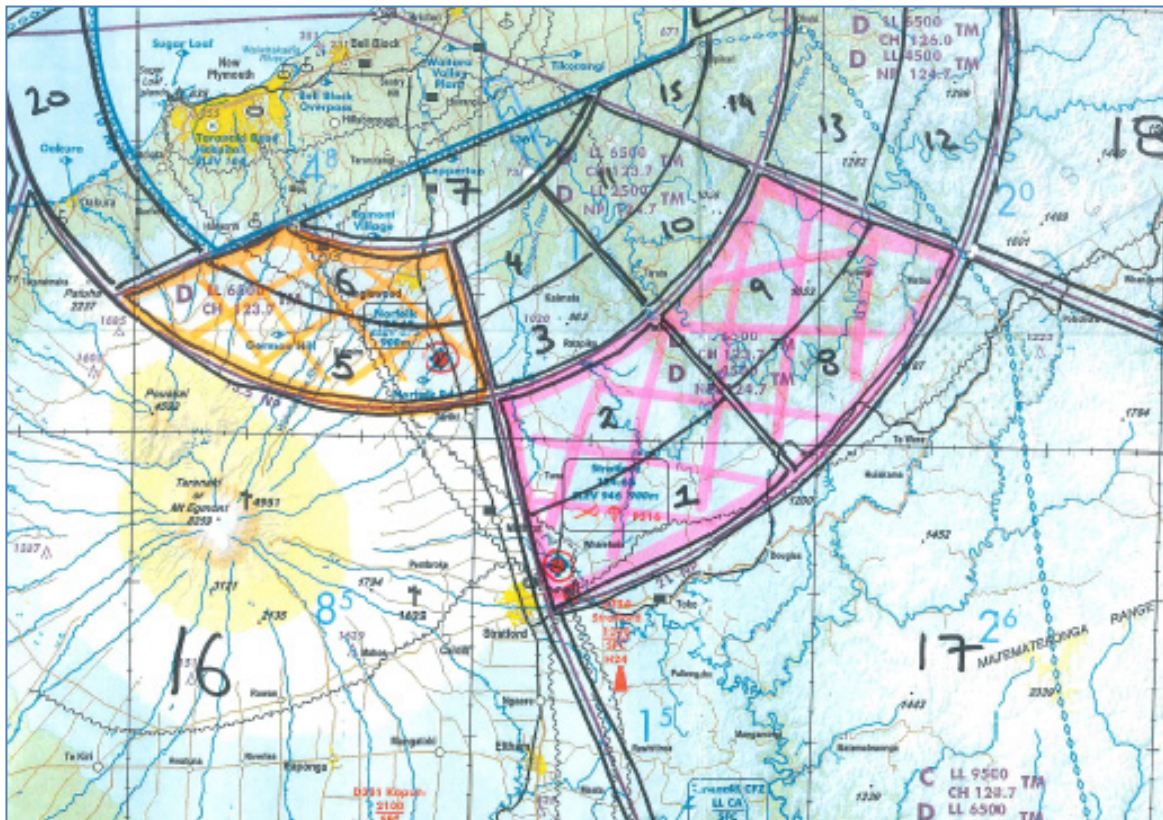


Figure 1 – Taranaki Gliding Club GAA requests

Because the final design of the PBN procedures and controlled airspace required to protect the flight paths is not yet complete, it is not possible to comment on the possible effect of the requested airspace. The requests for the two GAAs have been passed onto Airways to assess if air traffic control would be able to manage the airspace if the GAAs are active.

Restricted areas

There are no restricted areas in the review area and no proposals were received for the establishment of new restricted areas.

Military operating areas

There are no military operating areas (MOA) in the review area and no proposals were received for the establishment of new MOAs.

Mandatory broadcast zones

There are no mandatory broadcast zones (MBZ) in the review area and no proposals were received for the establishment of new MBZs.

Danger areas

There were no requests for new, or changes to existing, danger areas in the review area.

Low flying zones

There were no requests for new, or changes to existing, low flying zones in the review area.

Common frequency zones

The south-eastern boundary of the Taranaki common frequency zone (CFZ) was amended in November 2016 to align with the establishment of the new River CFZ at Whanganui.

There were no requests for new, or changes to the existing, CFZ in the review area.

Following actions

Once the final petitions are received from Airways for controlled airspace changes, expected late December, CAA will begin final consultation on all proposed changes with users.

Submissions on the final airspace proposals will be invited from users between January and February 2017. Consultation meetings will be held late February/early March 2017.

Once the airspace user consultation meetings have taken place, there will be an opportunity to make further submissions prior to the visual navigation chart update cut-off date on 20 April 2017.

Further consultation

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 comment and consideration.

Aerodrome operators (charted aerodromes only)

- Hawera aerodrome (Hawera Aero Club)
- Maui A and B heliports (Helicopters New Zealand Ltd)
- New Plymouth aerodrome (New Plymouth District Council)
- Norfolk aerodrome
- Stratford aerodrome (Stratford District Council)
- Taranaki Base Hospital heliport (Taranaki Health)

Operators, Organisations and User Groups

The following major operators, organisations and users have been identified:

- Air New Zealand Group – includes Mount Cook and Air Nelson
- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Airways Corporation of New Zealand

- Balloon Association of New Zealand
- CTC Aviation
- Gliding New Zealand
- Hawera Aero Club
- Helicopters New Zealand Ltd
- Massey School of Aviation
- Model Flying New Zealand
- New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association
- New Zealand Airline Pilots Association
- New Zealand Aviation Federation
- New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
- New Zealand Helicopter Association
- New Zealand Parachute Federation
- New Zealand Parachute Industry Association
- Recreational Aircraft Association of New Zealand
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
- Sport Aircraft Association New Zealand
- Sport Aviation Corp
- Stratford Sports Flyers

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

http://www.caa.govt.nz/airspace/airspace_review.htm

Notifications will be sent to CAA email notification subscribers to Airspace Notifications – Briefing Area 3.

If there are any further questions regarding the review process, please contact Paula Moore – contact details below.

Further information

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