
2015 – 2018 Airspace Review Plan
Update to 2014 – 2016 Airspace Review Plan

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Airspace review requirement and objective

Civil aviation rule 71.11 requires the Director to review each current airspace designation and classification every 5 years to verify the continuing need for the airspace.

The 2014-2016 airspace review sought to address the complexity of designated New Zealand airspace to ensure pilots have charts and airspace information which is clear and unambiguous.

For the 2014-2016 Airspace review the CAA objectives were to:

- De-clutter, simplify and clarify
- Take a regional approach to airspace review and change
- Reduce confusion in some airspace areas to improve safety
- Address identified “hotspots” of airspace incidents or occurrences
- Involve stakeholders to ensure all issues are assessed
- Take a long term strategic approach to airspace so changes are less frequent

Airspace review process

For the 2014-2016 airspace review period a regional approach was undertaken for the review process to allow more focussed consultation and a holistic overview of all airspace in that region with the intention to align any changes with actual and projected use.

It is quite likely that the continuing implementation of performance based navigation (PBN) procedures across the country over the next few years will require some amendment to control zones and control areas.

For example the southern PBN implementation (south of Christchurch) completed in 2012 necessitated a redesign of the controlled airspace to contain the new instrument flight paths. New PBN procedures are being progressively introduced at controlled aerodromes and this will have an effect at controlled aerodromes.

Additional special use airspace requests outside the review process have also lead to a “bolt-on” solution that over time has resulted in complex and cluttered areas of airspace.

CAA is seeking to reduce existing control zone (CTR) sizes through reduced PBN tolerances. Also under consideration may be eliminating the use of ‘VFR sectors’ where possible, to better satisfy protection of IFR routes and procedures – *not VFR routes and procedures*.

2014 – 2016 Airspace review plan process

The CAA undertook an assessment of current airspace as part of planning for the airspace review to identify the areas of concern and prioritise the review process. This process included assessment of airspace based on:

- airspace related incidents
- volume of aircraft
- complexity of airspace
- type of air traffic mix

Airspace type	Status	Review type	Stakeholders
Control areas (CTA)	Appropriate	Minimal – mainly for any changes associated with PBN	CAA/Airways/airlines/military/all users
Control zones (CTR)	Out of date need amending	Full – particularly VFR transit lanes and GAA	CAA/Airways/airlines/aerodrome operators/military/all users
Uncontrolled and special use airspace (SUA)	Problematic – complex and cluttered	Full	CAA/Airways/aerodrome operators/military/all users

Based on this assessment the geographical areas of priority and focus were established.

Geographical areas

North Island	Visual Navigation Chart	Priority†	Focus
Northland	C1	2	Uncontrolled, SUA
Auckland	C3	1	CTR
Waikato/BOP	C5	1	CTR
East Coast*	C5	3	General review
Hawkes Bay	C4	3	General review
Taranaki*	C6	3	General review
Manawatu	C2	1	Uncontrolled, SUA and CTR

Wairarapa*	C2	3	General review
Wellington	C2	3	CTR
South Island	Visual Navigation Chart	Priority†	Focus
Nelson	C9	1	CTR/SUA
Marlborough	C7	1	CTR
West Coast	C9	3	General review
Canterbury	C12/C13	2	Uncontrolled, SUA
Otago	C8	3	General review
Southland and Queenstown	C10/C11/C14	3	General review

*PBN rollout

† 1 to 3 – 1 being the highest

Preliminary discussions were held with Airways to coordinate the review as much as possible with the Airways' PBN implementation plan and available resources.

To align with the implementation of new PBN procedures planned for the controlled aerodromes, a timetable was produced. It was intended that the regional reviews would be undertaken at the same time as the control zone locations.

Outcome at end of 2014

As per the initial timetable, planned reviews of Auckland and Hamilton airspace were completed with most of the proposed changes being implemented.

Due to time constraints, it was not possible to redesign the Auckland, Whenuapai and Hamilton CTR to reduce the controlled airspace and it has been deferred.

2015 – 2018 Airspace Review Plan

Circumstances have meant that Airways has amended the original PBN implementation plan. Therefore, the '2014 – 2016 Airspace Review Plan' is now updated to reflect the changes and is re-titled '2015 – 2018 Airspace Review Plan'.

Reviews already completed:

Location	CAA Priority	Original planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	Updated planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	New Start <i>Draft airspace</i> <i>Consultation commences</i>	New Finish <i>Consultation complete</i> <i>Chart cut-off</i>	Effective Date VNC publication
Whenuapai	1		November 2018	September 2013	April 2014	November 2014
Auckland	1			September 2013	April 2014	November 2014
Hamilton	1	November 2016	November 2016	September 2013	April 2014	November 2014

Note that as mentioned in the previous section, the control zones at Whenuapai, Auckland and Hamilton are still under review.

Reviews yet to be initiated:

Location	CAA Priority	Original planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	Updated planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	New Start <i>Draft airspace</i> <i>Consultation commences</i>	New Finish <i>Consultation complete</i> <i>Chart cut-off</i>	New Effective Date VNC publication
Palmerston North	1	November 2015	November 2016	May 2015	April 2016	November 2016
Ohakea	1	November 2015	November 2016	May 2015	April 2016	November 2016
Tauranga	1	November 2016	November 2016	May 2015	April 2016	November 2016
Rotorua	1	November 2016	November 2016	May 2015	April 2016	November 2016

Christchurch	2	Ongoing	Ongoing	-	-	-
Wellington	3	Ongoing	Ongoing	-	-	-
Gisborne	3	November 2015	November 2017	May 2016	April 2017	November 2017
Napier	3	November 2015	November 2017	May 2016	April 2017	November 2017

Location	CAA Priority	Original planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	Updated planned dates for PBN procedures to be implemented	New Start <i>Draft airspace</i> <i>Consultation commences</i>	New Finish <i>Consultation complete</i> <i>Chart cut-off</i>	New Effective Date VNC publication
New Plymouth	3	November 2016	November 2017	May 2016	April 2017	November 2017
Woodbourne	2	November 2015	November 2018	May 2017	April 2018	November 2018
Nelson	2	November 2015	November 2018	May 2017	April 2018	November 2018
Queenstown	3	Implemented in 2012	Ongoing maintenance	May 2017	April 2018	November 2018
Dunedin	3	Implemented in 2012	Ongoing maintenance	May 2017	April 2018	November 2018
Invercargill	3	Implemented in 2012	Ongoing maintenance	May 2017	April 2018	November 2018

The review of the Manawatu area which includes Palmerston North and Ohakea aerodromes will be one of the most involved due to the complexity of the existing airspace and the mixed types of operation from military, two large flight training organisations, agricultural, and private operations in addition to the scheduled passenger transport.

Consultation process

When each region is reviewed, a review document will be sent directly to all identified stakeholder organisations in that region for feedback including aerodrome operators and aerodrome/airspace user groups. The document will be published on the CAA website and notifications will be sent to CAA email notification subscribers to Airspace Notifications to the affected and immediately adjacent briefing areas.

Comments/suggestions from interested parties are requested. When the request involves a specific airspace change please provide this on CAA Form 24071/01 available on the CAA website. <http://www.caa.govt.nz/Forms/24071-01.doc>

The CAA will conduct a meeting at each region following consultation to review proposals discuss and agree on finalised amendments.

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

Contact details

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