

# Community Drop-in Information

Tarras Community Hall  
March 2021



## Kia ora

We have now had the privilege of talking with many people in and around Tarras on the potential to build an airport in the area.

We'd now like to:

- Let you know what we've heard so far
- Give you the chance to add feedback
- Outline our next steps
- Explain more about why we're here in the first place!

We know our project (just like gold mining, the Clyde Dam, agriculture and viticulture before us) would create change in Central Otago.

We're committed to respectfully engaging with communities and stakeholders in an ongoing manner.

This includes mana whenua who have a longstanding connection with this region.

That way we can design the project so that it addresses concern and makes a sustainable difference for the future generations who will call this region home.

## The Challenge

Central Otago faces the challenge of how best to accommodate its future growth.

The lower South Island is an increasingly popular place to live, work and play. That means our current aviation infrastructure won't cope with growing numbers of people wanting to fly where they want to, and when they want to, in the long-term.

The pandemic has given us some time to find the best solution for everyone.

We believe a new airport to serve this area of the South Island makes sense. Its design will enable a lower carbon future and we can explore it now, while new generations of aircraft and fuels are being developed.

Doing nothing means we will face constraints, congestion or more difficult journeys. We'll also face economic issues and the stress of not being able to fly to friends and family when we need to.

Christchurch Airport has both the expertise and resources to help solve this challenge.

That's why we're here.

## Why Tarras?

Our 750-hectare site is well located from an aviation perspective. It's flat, easy to access and large enough to serve the region for a very long time.

Our current thinking is the airport would be flexible and able to grow in line with demand and the connectivity needs of a growing region.

We know this would affect some who call Tarras home, however, we are confident we can find solutions or mitigate the impacts.

Our project offers the best solution as it could:

1. Grow alongside demand well into the future (50+ years)
2. Be designed to enable lower carbon aviation
3. Serve populations from, and disperse visitors to, multiple regions
4. Work operationally and commercially for airlines.

This is about creating opportunities, enabling business to grow and ensuring the whole region has access to aviation connectivity in the future.



# Project Overview

Creating a greenfield airport from scratch is complex and a long-term undertaking.

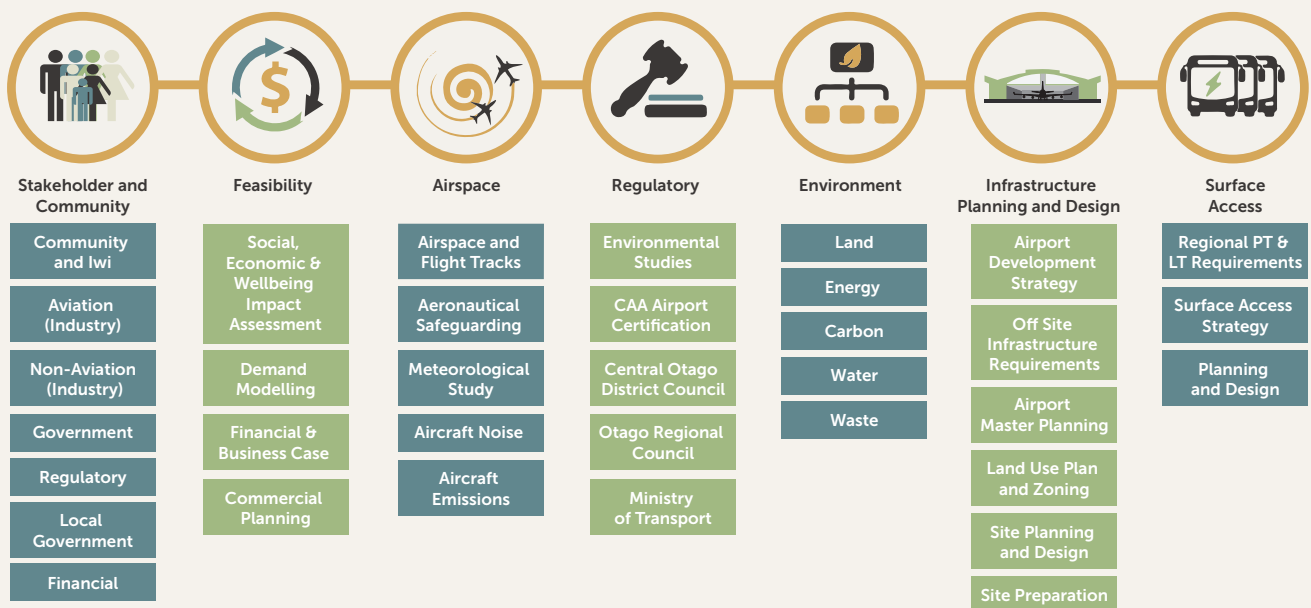
At this stage, we expect it'll take around three years to plan and explore the feasibility of the airport, another three years to get the required approvals and around three years to construct it.

As the diagram below shows, we'll continually engage with community, iwi and other stakeholders.



The next three or so years will see us focus on exploring viability and design. We have identified dozens of actions that we need to undertake.

Some actions are large and complex pieces of work that interconnect with others. Together they will give us a strong information base on which to make decisions.



\*This visual plan will change as the project progresses.

# Aviation

## How aviation delivers

Aviation makes a real difference to our world. It connects people with family, new experiences, places and opportunities while connecting our businesses to the global economy.



New Zealand is geographically isolated – aviation connects us to the rest of the world



Aviation is the only way New Zealand can export time-sensitive goods to high-value overseas markets



It disperses visitors across a wider area of New Zealand, putting money into regions



It enables businesses to access high-value markets – creating jobs for us and our children



Passenger planes carry cargo which makes exporting New Zealand goods more affordable



Aviation allows us to live where we want to and still connect with friends and family – 98% of NZ's international people movements are by air



It's an economic generator. Economists calculate that for every \$1 Christchurch Airport earns, \$50 is generated for South Island businesses



It's the best way to deliver critical supplies, including vaccines and medicines, during emergency situations



Visitors spend 2 to 3 times more than residents, so help fund amenities like eateries, shops, museums and activities



Aviation creates jobs. Pre-COVID 1 in 8 New Zealanders was directly or indirectly employed by tourism



Travel generates tax income – visitors paid about \$7.3 billion to the Crown in FY2019 alone, helping fund public services for us all

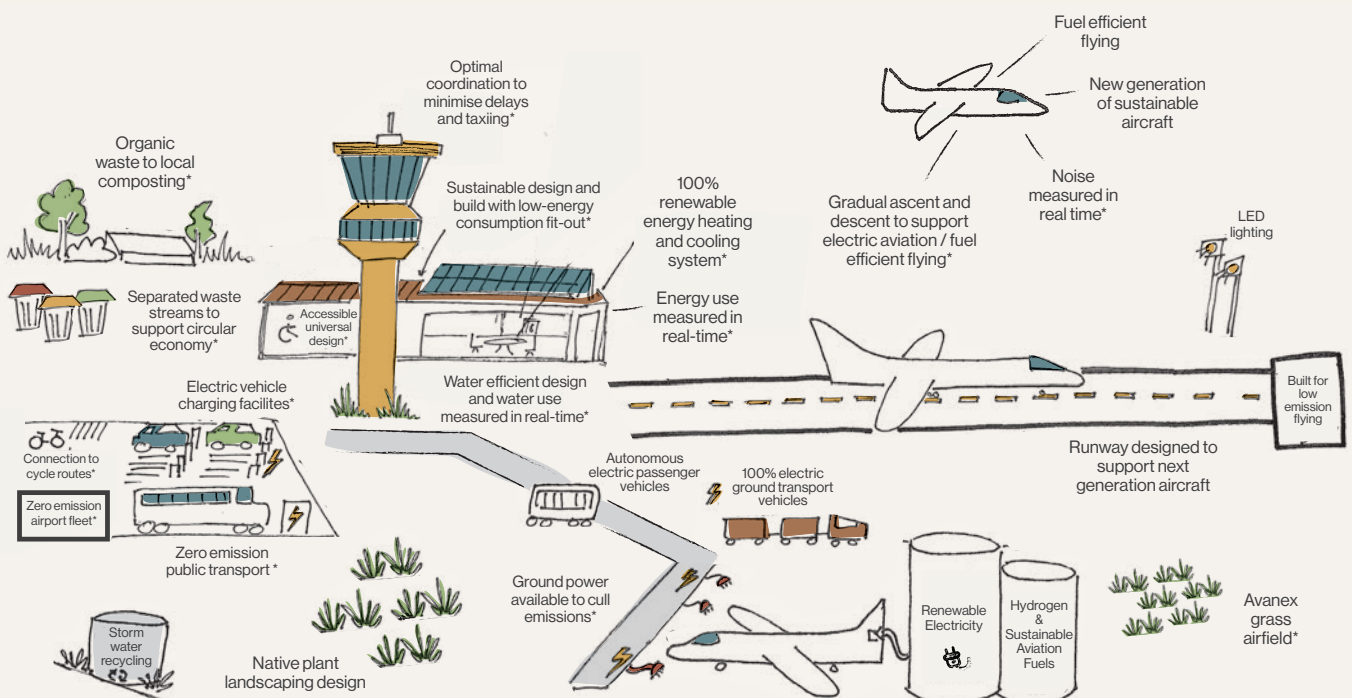


COVID brings home to us how much we had built travel and connections into our lives

Aviation has solved many of its own problems in the past. It has become safer, more efficient and more affordable. It is now working to solve its biggest challenge ... addressing the climate impacts of flying.

## Greener aviation

The greatest source of aviation emissions does not come from airport operations, but from planes' use of fossil fuel. Globally there is a focus on making aviation cleaner – our role is to constantly look for ways to help airlines decouple from fossil fuels.



\* Things we do at Christchurch Airport



# Community Engagement

We are committed to respectfully engaging with communities, mana whenua and stakeholders in an ongoing manner.

**Engagement** is a broad and ongoing process of sharing information with the entire community and seeking feedback and involvement. Good engagement will allow different people and groups to express their diverse concerns and aspirations. We can take what we are hearing, reflect it back to the community and use it to inform planning and development. This will lead to better community outcomes that make a sustainable difference.

**Consultation** is a one-off legal process to obtain the public's feedback on specific proposals presented to them. This is generally part of any planning or approval process.

Engagement does not replace any requirement for consultation.



## The initial feedback

Our first steps of engaging with the community centred around having one-on-one meetings with individuals so we could hear their thoughts, answer their questions and understand their concerns.

We've valued the time people have taken to speak with us and are listening closely to their concerns.

This is valuable insight which has already informed our thinking

Broadly the feedback we've received fits into six categories:

- Environment
- Quality Infrastructure
- Rural Lifestyles
- Community Wellbeing
- Economic Opportunities
- Other Feedback

The following pages provide an overview of each category, showcase some of the feedback we've had and the issues we're exploring.

We will continue to engage with community and stakeholders – the final page of this booklet shows you how we'll do so.

The community feedback we've had so far is reflected on the following pages

# 1. Environment

Central Otago has a spectacular landscape that is highly valued. This is a region where people love to fish, boat, cycle and hike or just sit and enjoy the open spaces and vistas.

It is no surprise that the impact a new airport would have on the environment is a key issue of concern.

We hear and acknowledge this concern and it will be a core focus of our planning and design process.

We understand climate science and the urgency with which we all need to act.

“What about carbon emissions and the airport’s carbon footprint?”

## We’re listening

“

How does it make sense to be building an airport in a climate crisis?

“

What about the effect of aviation gas on vineyards?

“

We acknowledge there is the opportunity to design and build the airport in a low impact manner.

“

We don’t want to damage our reputation for sustainable food production.

“

Water has always been a big issue for Tarras.

## We’d like you to know

Building a new airport enables us to design an operation that will lower carbon emissions (including those of aircraft), and minimise other environmental impacts, while enabling the connectivity this region deserves.

We are confident as to how the airport could manage its land while minimising its use of energy, water and the creation of waste.

Operating sustainably is something we are experienced in, being the first airport in the world to achieve the new global standard in carbon reduction at airports.



## We’re exploring

How airport operations can help airlines decarbonise

Designing a carbon neutral airport

The potential impact on the local environment (from air quality to groundwater)

Environmental best practice

We will conduct full environmental impact studies before entering the design phase and seeking planning approvals.

## 2. Quality Infrastructure

The pressure on local infrastructure is a concern identified by Tarras residents.

In particular, there's concern that building an airport would increase the safety risk and congestion on roads around the district.

Some residents say there's already a lack of infrastructure in relation to parking and toilets in the village; others say the pressure on infrastructure will get worse in the future regardless of whether the airport goes ahead.

Our feasibility phase will investigate our project's likely impact on infrastructure and we are happy to play our part in solving any issues.

**“We're worried about the lack of infrastructure including parking, toilets and accommodation for airport workers.”**

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### We're listening

“

Traffic will increase in the likes of the Kawarau Gorge.

“

I don't want increases in rates to pay for roading infrastructure.

“

What would be done about the one-lane bridges?

“

I do not want to see traffic bypassing the airport and driving through the Ardour Valley.

### We'd like you to know

We will be working with government and regional agencies to assess the impact an airport would have on infrastructure.

This is a chance to think differently. For example, we're keen to explore the possibilities of new sustainable transport linking the airport to nearby locations.

We will need to see what impact the project will have on the current infrastructure and what may need upgrading if the airport is built.

It's important to note that pressure on infrastructure will increase if other options to grow airline capacity in the region proceed.

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### We're exploring

How to resolve infrastructure issues (with other agencies)

The potential impact on existing infrastructure

Sustainable public transport links to nearby locations

Whether new infrastructure would be required

Focus groups will explore key issues.  
Let us know if you're keen to take part.

# 3. Rural Lifestyle

Many residents have told us how much they value the peacefulness of this area and they worry that an airport would interrupt this.

We understand 'peace and quiet' is what has brought many to this place.

Our design process will focus on addressing issues like noise and light, and reducing the impact of these on the local community if the airport is built.

But first, our focus is on assessing what the impacts might be and who would be most affected.

“We moved to Tarras for peace and quiet, that is why we love our property.”

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## We're listening

“

We know there will be more noise, but we are not too worried about that.

“

We are worried the runway will point towards our property.

“

Where is the proposed flight path?

“

We don't want to hear aircraft flying overhead.

“

We need more information.

## We'd like you to know

There are many questions we cannot provide 100% certainty on at the moment.

We need to undertake multiple studies on elements including the area's meteorology and environmental features, as well as modelling the airspace and potential flight paths and noise impacts.

That will help us progress the airport's potential layout and answer more of your questions.

The design process will also look at how to measure and mitigate the impacts the airport may have.

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## We're exploring

The airport's potential layout

Runway alignment

Ways to light the campus

Flight paths

Noise impacts

We will have more information to share during 2021.



# 4. Community Wellbeing

We understand our project, like other developments across Central Otago, has attracted a range of opinions in the community.

It's also created uncertainty for some residents.

Property owners are questioning whether they should go ahead with plans to renovate, sell or subdivide.

It's likely to be several years before we know whether the airport will get the required planning approvals and meet feasibility requirements.

Some of those timeframes, like getting regulatory approvals, are outside of our control (as they should be) but we will keep you informed.

“I'm worried Tarras will lose its community feel.”

## We're listening

“

We feel that building the airport is progress, especially for our kids' generation.

“

I am heavily focused on the uncertainty this project brings.

“

I think property values will increase.

“

We are unsure whether it's worth investing in our property anymore.

“

We think this will attract new families to Tarras.

## We'd like you to know

We hear how important certainty and the need for more information is.

It's important to us to share accurate information. That means undertaking a large number of complex and inter-related studies before we can answer some questions.

While we can't give 100% certainty on timing, our current expectation is it's likely to be around 10 years before any airport could open on our site.

In the meantime, we will share information when we are able to, we'll answer all the questions we can and we'll let you know when we can't.

In time, we are confident you will see Christchurch Airport as an organisation with integrity and that we do what we say we will.

## We're committed to

Listening to your concerns

Factoring your feedback into our thinking

Communicating with you regularly

Exploring how this airport might impact property values

Answering questions when we are able to

We will continue our regular email newsletters.



# 5. Economic Opportunity

Many Tarras residents see the airport as a significant economic and social opportunity.

The project's ability to create jobs that attract new families to the area is being welcomed by many – as are the commercial opportunities an airport would bring.

Aviation underpins the global economy and is the only way businesses can get time-sensitive or perishable goods to market quickly.

This would be a critical piece of infrastructure and would bring long-term economic benefits and add value to Central Otago and its neighbouring regions.

“I’m hoping this will bring opportunities for the next generation, including jobs for our kids.”

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## We're listening

“

It'd be great to see some more jobs created.

“

This is something positive for the region – economically and socially.

“

How will this impact my business?

“

Freight is important and air connectivity plays a big role in that.

“

Will you use local contractors?

## We'd like you to know

We are in the very early days of a very long-term project.

The validation and planning phase of the project will take up to three years because it involves a large number of interconnected and complex studies.

We will begin quantifying the economic, social and wellbeing impacts this year. This will likely take more than 12 months.

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## We're exploring

The feasibility case for the airport

Social and wellbeing impacts

The economic impact of the airport

Opportunities for local businesses

# 6. Other Feedback

Many other thoughts have been raised with us during our conversations with residents so far.

They include access to water and its quality, impact on views and tourism concerns.

We will consider every concern and do what we can to address them as we establish a formal proposal for the airport.

“It would be great to see Tarras get back to the days when we had 80 kids at the school.”

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## We're listening

“

We think it will be really handy for travel.

“

Will there be opportunities for local businesses?

“

What is the need for having three airports in the area?

“

How will farms that use helicopters and drones be affected?

“

The airport will be great for the community, especially in the current financial environment.

“

I am interested in CODC's stance on zoning and development restrictions around section size.

“

What support can the community expect from the airport?

“

I am interested in how CIAL will be providing feedback to the community.

“

The number of tourists should be capped.

“

I believe that the location is perfect for an airport.

“

I am concerned about the impacts on towns between Tarras and Christchurch.

“

We position ourselves as being neutral and open to hearing more about this.

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## We'd like you to know

We genuinely appreciate your feedback so let us know if there is something you think we don't know about.

Listening now means we can factor your feedback into our planning and ensure we address as many concerns as possible.

We are undertaking a lot of work to determine what this airport might look like, how it might operate, and the impacts it could have on the local community.

There will be a place for an engaged community to be involved. This will ensure community feedback features in our planning.

Thank you for everything you have shared with us so far.

# Our Next Steps

There has been a wide variety of thoughts shared with us by Tarras residents – but one thing that we all agree on is the need for more information.

This year will see us begin work to bring more information to you. This involves progressing the potential design of the airport and assessing its impact.

You can expect us to:

- Communicate with you regularly
- Share more detailed information
- Have more people on our land and in the region from time to time, exploring different elements
- Answer any questions you raise (and let you know when we can't provide answers and why).

## How you can be involved

We want this project to be well-informed so we're committed to respectfully engaging with communities, mana whenua and stakeholders.

This engagement will not change any legal requirement to consult as part of the later planning processes. It is about ensuring the project has good community outcomes – both now and in the future.

Below is an outline of how we will engage with the community.

## It makes sense to start now

We have an opportunity to work towards a sensible solution to a real challenge that, if not addressed, will curb future economic growth and social opportunities in this part of the South Island.

We want to create a solution that helps aviation transition to a lower carbon future, takes the best of our past and adds value to multiple regions.

We're engaging with you now so we can hear your feedback and factor it into our planning.

This is about listening, so we solve as many concerns as possible, create opportunities for Central Otago and get approval to build an asset this region can be proud of.

It won't be easy, but our team is up for the challenge.



Together we can find solutions that work

August 2020- Ongoing	Throughout 2021	From June 2021	Ongoing
One-on-one interviews	Community roadshows	Interactive tools	Static displays
Community drop in sessions	Community information sessions	Focus groups	Website content and updates
Briefings and meetings	Information gathering	Fact sheets	Media releases and newsletters
Community newsletters	Community events	Updates on potential runway alignment, flight paths and noise	Email



# Our Commitment

We will respect the values of Tarras and the wider Central Otago community throughout this project.

The values laid out in Central Otago's Regional Identity are a great reflection of the sorts of things residents have told us matter to them.

Below each is how we will work to respect that value.



## Making a difference

We'll focus on exploring an airport that makes a real difference to the region – economically and socially.



## Respecting others

We'll listen to and engage with the community and mana whenua to grow our understanding of what is important to you.



## Embrace Diversity

We'll engage widely and inclusively.



## Adding value

We'll commit to adding value to your community and want to hear how you think we can do that.



## Having Integrity

We'll be open and honest and will show you that we will do as we say.



## Learning from the past

The case for the airport will be well-researched so informed decisions are made with foresight.



## Meeting our obligations

It's a given we'll meet our legal obligations. Rest assured, we take our duty to respect this community and environment equally seriously.



## Protecting our rich heritage

We'll investigate how this airport could reflect Central Otago's rich history.



## Making a sustainable difference

This would be one of the most sustainable airports in the world.

You can email the project team at any time  
[central@christchurchairport.co.nz](mailto:central@christchurchairport.co.nz)

CHRISTCHURCH  
AIRPORT