Project Update

July 2021

Kia ora,

The project team's been deep in analysis lately modelling options around runway length, alignment and approach/ departure paths.

We are making good progress.

There have been hundreds of hours spent gathering and overlaying multiple data sets to build up the picture (particularly on topography and weather conditions) we need for this preliminary modelling.

Even at this early stage it is highly technical work and is necessary so we can explore different alignments, runway lengths and approach paths and the performance of various aircraft on each, under a range of conditions.

The overall goal is to validate the site's suitability for aviation and to identify which options are best in terms of safety and sustainability. As promised, once we have identified those options we'll share them with you.

We're on track to do that by the end of next month.

Rest assured, those closest to any potential alignment will have the opportunity to meet and talk with us.

The second phase of this work will involve collecting more accurate data and undertaking additional modelling to better understand noise and visual impacts.

Having a thorough understanding of those impacts is important, which is why we've committed to taking the time to explore this thoroughly. It will mean we have a good base of information on which we can rely to develop solutions that minimise impacts.

We will keep you in the loop along the way and continue to share the information as soon as it's ready.

In the meantime, please feel free to email us at any stage: centralotagoairport.co.nz

Kind regards,
Michael Singleton
Project Director

A new view of Tarras

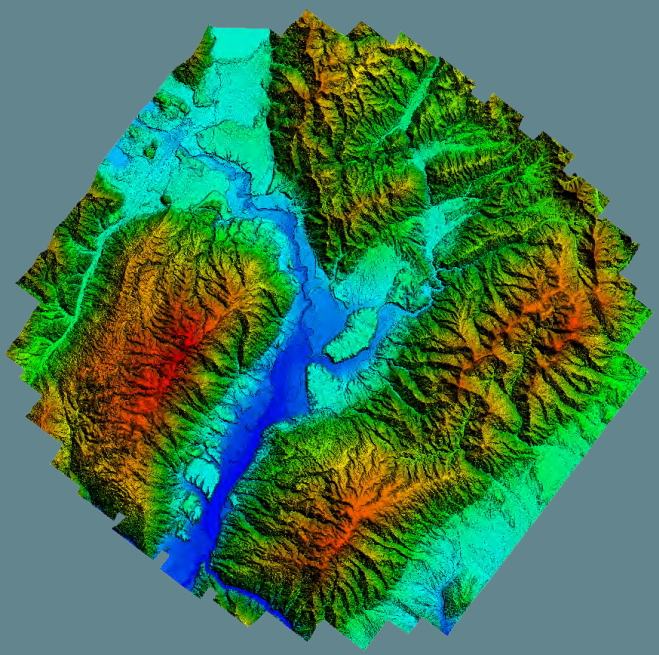
You might recall a notice we sent out about an aerial survey in April, this was the beginning of a piece of work to give us a much more high tech view of the area around our site.

This involved flying a line scanning camera over a 10,000 square kilometre area, including Tarras and the wider Cromwell basin.

The camera's an impressive piece of equipment that can look forwards, backwards and downwards at the same time.

It scanned the land in 4-5 kilometre strips, each 100 kilometres long. Nearly 60 of these scans were taken and they're currently being overlaid to form a series of 3D images of the area.

The images will give us much more accurate information on the terrain which will help us better test the safety of any runway alignment and length.



A weather update

Understanding the meteorological conditions on and around our site is critical.

It enables us to assess how the weather would most likely impact airport operations and whether we need to look at measures to mitigate this.

So far, we've gathered eight years of publicly-available weather data as well as information from four weather stations in the area. We've combined these to establish a preliminary picture that is allowing us to progress modelling.

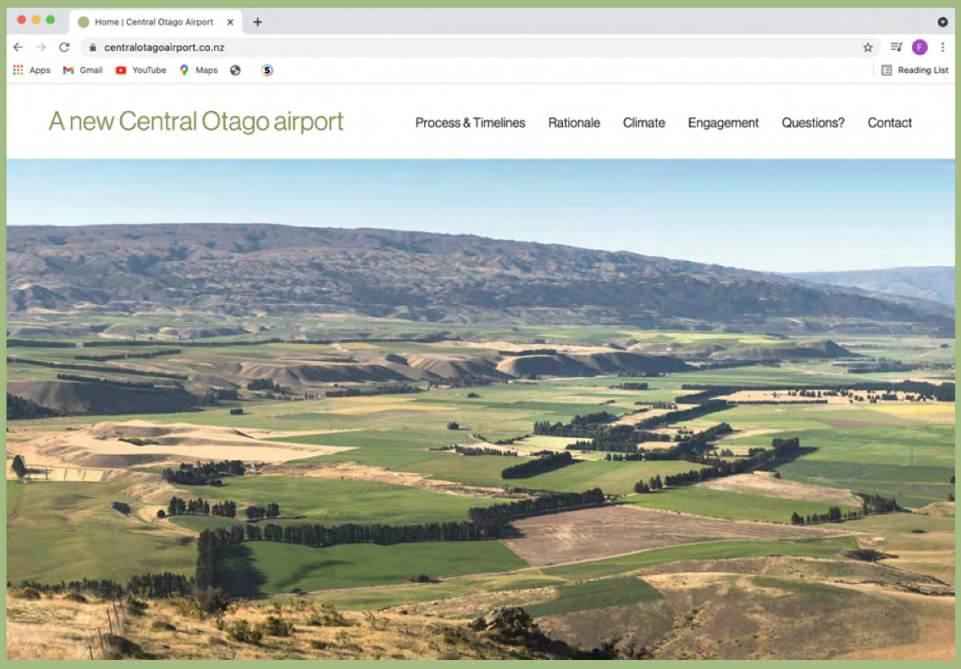
We're looking at four key things - temperature, wind, rain and visibility.

We've learnt the site has a very low frequency of high wind speeds (>20 knots), there are between 30 and 35 mornings per year where temperatures are at or below freezing and average temperatures range from 22 degrees in January to 6 degrees in July.

As you know, it's winter and a few people have raised questions around whether fog would make it impossible to have an airport at Tarras. Our early assessment of visibility conditions and operational responses shows that's not likely to be an issue.

Our next step is to build an even more accurate picture through gathering more detailed meteorological information from the site itself.

Checked out our new website yet?



The project website was launched in May.

It features an overview of the project, explains processes and timelines, outlines the milestones to date, articulates the rationale, and provides information on elements we know are of interest to many people.

Please feel free to share this email with others so they can sign up for future updates.

Sign Up

Christchurch Airport
30 Durey Rd
Harewood 8053

You can email the team at any time via central@christchurchairport.co.nz.