

I am making a submission in support of North Shore Airport being granted Airport Authority status.

Airport Authority Status provides a range of suitable mechanisms that will help ensure North Shore Airport can continue to maintain, operate and manage the airport in a way that is consistent with the majority of airports around New Zealand.

The regulatory framework and legal status that would be gained by acquiring Airport Authority Status will help protect North Shore Airport and provide certainty for the airport now and into the future.

North Shore Airport is recognized by Auckland Council as strategic transport infrastructure, is the subject of Auckland Councils highly supportive North Shore Airport Topic Report of 2019, and with the granting of Airport Authority Status, the airport can continue to be of increasing value to the local community by providing better transport links, more jobs and synergy with local businesses.

North Shore Aero Club, the owner of North Shore Airport has approximately 600 members and around 200 aircraft are based at North Shore Airport. There are regular scheduled passenger flights to and from North Shore Airport and in addition, the airport is heavily utilized by various EMS providers such as NZ Police, Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust (Westpac Rescue), Northland Emergency Services Trust and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

As key strategic infrastructure directly attributable to supporting many jobs, businesses and livelihoods, it is essential North Shore Airport is supported in the diligent operation of the airport by endorsing it with the most appropriate tools available, namely, Airport Authority Status.

New airports are difficult to establish, especially those within useful proximity to growing metropolitan areas and the airports that exist must be given all the necessary, purposeful tools available to complement their continued operation. The vast majority of regionally significant airports in New Zealand already enjoy Airport Authority Status and it is fitting that North Shore Airport should too.

In conclusion, the Airport Authorities Act 1966 exists for a reason and it is essential that North Shore Airport should be recognized as an Airport Authority accordingly.