

Media Release

Embargoed until 1 September 2016

TRIAL SMART APPROACH FLIGHT PATH COMPLETED

Auckland Airport, Airways New Zealand and the Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand (BARNZ) announced today the completion of a year-long trial of a SMART Approach trial flight path to Auckland Airport from the North.

The decision to trial this third satellite-guided flight path to Auckland Airport from the North was publicly announced by the aviation industry in December 2014, following the trial and public consultation process for the first two SMART Approaches to Auckland Airport from the North.

BARNZ's executive Director, John Beckett, says, "The 12-month trial of the SMART Approach flight path, known as 'Yellow U23', commenced on 1 September 2015 and concluded on 31 August 2016. The flight path was used between 7am and 10pm by up to 10 aircraft per day. Aircraft have now stopped using the trial flight path and a draft report on the trial will be prepared and published for public consultation."

Airways New Zealand's chief operating officer, Pauline Lamb, says, "The trial flight path was higher and its approach curve wider than the SMART flight paths that were trialed in Auckland in 2012 and 2013. These two changes meant the trial flight path would reduce aircraft noise, use even less fuel and deliver benefits for the environment. The trial flight path also enabled us to distribute air traffic across a variety of inbound routes."

Auckland Airport's acting general manager of aeronautical operations, Anil Varma, says, "The draft report on the trial will evaluate aircraft performance; airspace management; operational benefits – including time, distance, fuel and carbon emission savings; noise monitor results; and public feedback. Auckland Airport already connects Auckland to the rest of New Zealand and the world through more than 420 flights per day. The aim of this trial was to help the aviation industry grow travel, trade and tourism in an environmentally friendly and socially responsible manner."

More information about SMART Approaches and the trial flight path is available online at www.aucklandflightpathtrial.co.nz

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Attachment: Map of Yellow U23 SMART Approach flight path

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