

Media Release
28 May 2015

**NEW SMART APPROACH FLIGHT PATH TRIAL TO COMMENCE
1 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Auckland Airport, Airways New Zealand and the Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand (BARNZ) announced today the details of a new satellite-guided 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 last year, 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 new trial flight path, known as 'Yellow U23', will commence on 1 September 2015 and continue for up to 12 months. The flight path can be used between 7am and 10pm by up to 10 aircraft per day. At the conclusion of the trial, aircraft will stop using the flight path and a draft report will be published for public consultation."

Airways New Zealand's chief operating officer, Pauline Lamb, says, "The trial flight path is higher and its approach curve is wider than the SMART flight paths that were trialled in Auckland in 2012 and 2013. This is intended to reduce aircraft noise, use even less fuel and deliver benefits for the environment, and incorporates lessons from the first trial. This new path will also enable us to distribute traffic across a variety of inbound routes."

Auckland Airport's general manager aeronautical operations, Judy Nicholl, says, "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 every day. The aim of this trial is to help the aviation industry to grow travel, trade and tourism in an environmentally friendly and socially responsible manner."

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

ENDS

Attachment: Map of Yellow U23 SMART Approach flight path

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