
**Proposed common frequency zone –
Ashburton
airspace user consultation**

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Proposed airspace.....	1
Possible effect on local operations	2
Further comment	2
Consultation list.....	3
Submissions.....	4
Further information.....	5

Introduction

A Common Frequency Zone (CFZ) is non-mandatory airspace and advisory in nature, i.e. airspace not designated under Part 71, used in New Zealand only and described in AIPNZ ENR 5.3, Section 5.

CFZs are established to encourage pilots to use a single VHF frequency allocated for the zone. Pilots should transmit position, altitude and intentions relevant to prominent reporting points or features at entry, and at other times for traffic safety.

This request has been made to CAA to facilitate local and itinerant traffic operating within uncontrolled airspace. The reasons stated in support of the application are:

1. Concern for local and transiting aircraft within the area being on any number of available frequencies to make position reports. The establishment of Common Frequency Zone (CFZ) attempt to rationalise these frequencies to avoid confusion for operators and remove 119.1 MHz as the frequency for Ashburton aerodrome.
2. Alignment with current and proposed Common Frequency Zones and Mandatory Broadcast Zones along the coast to the north and south of the proposed Ashburton CFZ.

Proposed airspace

An application has been received for the establishment of a CFZ in the area around Ashburton aerodrome (NZAS). This is depicted in Figure 1 below.

An upper limit of 3500 ft for the CFZ has been proposed. The lower limit of controlled airspace for the extents of the area are between 1500 ft and 9500 ft, and of note the surrounding existing CFZs have upper limits of between 5500 ft and the lower limit of controlled airspace.

The north-eastern boundary of the Ashburton CFZ is aligned with the Banks Peninsula CFZ.

The south boundary of the Ashburton CFZ is proposed to align with the South Canterbury CFZ and Timaru North MBZ.



Figure 1: Proposed Ashburton Common Frequency Zone

Possible effect on local operations

The proponent has requested 119.3 MHz as a common frequency for the proposed Ashburton CFZ. This may be accommodated however a frequency will be allocated by Radio Spectrum Management based off available frequencies within the region. This may require operators of base radios to change channel crystals of radios.

It is possible that the new frequency will be to two decimal places, e.g. 123.35, which is unable to be selected on older technology radios.

Ashburton aerodrome traffic will also adopt the proposed CFZ frequency.

Further comment

As stated, CFZ are advisory in nature and therefore pilots do not have to operate on a particular frequency.

Note that there is often NORDO traffic operating within the Canterbury area as it allows those aircraft to transit within a corridor outside radio required airspace to the north and south.

Consultation list

The Director invites feedback regarding the proposed airspace change.

This document will be sent directly to the organisations listed below. It would be appreciated if you would kindly forward the document to your members for consideration and comment.

Aerodrome operators (charted aerodromes only):

- Ashburton aerodrome
- Christchurch aerodrome
- Fernside fields aerodrome
- Forest Field aerodrome
- Loburn Abbey aerodrome
- Pudding Hill aerodrome
- Rangitata Island aerodrome
- Rangiora aerodrome
- Springfield aerodrome
- Timaru aerodrome
- Waimate aerodrome
- West Melton aerodrome
- Wyndale aerodrome

Operators, Organisations and User Groups

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Airways Corporation of New Zealand
- Air New Zealand
- Balloon Aviation Association
- Canterbury airspace user group
- Canterbury aeroclub
- Flying New Zealand
- Gliding New Zealand

- Mid Canterbury aeroclub
- Model Flying New Zealand
- New Zealand Airline Academy (Oamaru)
- New Zealand Aviation Federation
- New Zealand Agricultural Aviation Association
- New Zealand Helicopter Association
- New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
- North Otago aeroclub
- Recreational Aircraft Association of New Zealand
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
- Skydiving Kiwis
- South Canterbury aeroclub
- Sport Aircraft Association New Zealand
- Sport Aviation Corp

Electronic notification of the consultation will be sent to subscribers to the CAA email Notification Service for Airspace Notifications Areas NZ8 and NZ9.

This document is also available on the CAA website at the following link:

<https://www.aviation.govt.nz/airspace-and-aerodromes/airspace/airspace-review/2022-airspace-reviews/>

Submissions

This document forms part of the consultation process. Submissions are sought from any interested person, organisation or representative group.

Submissions are accepted either electronically or via mail, addressed to:

Team Coordinator
Aviation Security and Infrastructure
Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
PO Box 3555
Wellington 6140

Email: [aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz](mailto: aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz)

Reference – 22/ASD/23 Ashburton CFZ

Closing date for submissions to this proposal is **Thursday 7th April 2022**

Further information

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