

Drone Leadership Group Minutes

Chairperson	Bronwyn Turley
Date/Time	Tuesday, 2 February 2021 02:00pm-03:30pm
Location	Ministry of Transport 3 Queens Wharf, Wellington, 6011 (opposite TSB Arena) and via Skype
Invited participants	Iain Cossar (MBIE) John Kay (CAA) David Harrison (CAA) Katie Bhreatnach (Airways) Mark Blanchard (Airways) Bronwyn Turley (MoT) Note, other staff from the respective member agencies will also be in attendance

1. Apologies and welcome to new members

Iain Cossar and Jude Rushmere of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) were apologies for this meeting and were replaced by Joe McKay and Tim Boyle respectively. Tim Boyle introduced himself as the new Programme Manager of the Airspace Integration Trials Programme (AITP). He will replace Jude Rushmere who moved to a different role.

2. Follow-up on previous actions

In the previous Drone Leadership Group (DLG) meeting, Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) agreed to work together to draft a proposal on a new format for sector engagement. CAA advised that the aim is to set up a first sector meeting in mid-March, which will focus on establishing the Terms of References and address any ongoing developments in the sector. A list of stakeholders that need to be involved in this engagement will be put together by the CAA and shared for review with all members of the DLG.

3. Update on Aerospace Strategy

MBIE explained that Hon Dr Minister Woods, Hon Minister Nash, and Hon Minister Wood, have received an early draft of the Aerospace Strategy in December 2021. At this stage, only Hon Minister Nash has provided any feedback. He is comfortable with the direction of the work. **Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.**

[REDACTED]

MBIE is considering next steps and will draft an advice to all three Ministers. Additionally, MBIE mentioned that it wants to start the public consultation on the Aerospace Strategy in mid-March 2022. A draft of the consultation document will be taken to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] If the capacity decreases, the Ministry would not be able to continue work on enabling drone integration. Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.

[REDACTED]

4. **AITP Risk Register**

MBIE proposed that all agencies look at the AITP Risk Register and that any thoughts and feedback on risks, identified issues, and priorities would be taken up with Jude directly. Some of the identified risks were related to resourcing and retainment of AITP partners. The limited number of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) spaces for aerospace stakeholders has also been identified as a risk. MBIE mentioned that the level of investments in aerospace in other jurisdictions should be something to be mindful of as it might impact the interest in AITP.

The Ministry offered to circulate the AITP Risk Register to all agencies for consideration.

Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.

5.

[REDACTED]

6. **Roundtable of updates**

Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Over the last months, the Ministry has paused their work on the Enabling Drone Integration work (EDI) [REDACTED]. However, the consultation has been completed, and a Cabinet paper has been drafted. It will decide on next steps when it has received an update from Hon Minister Wood.

Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.

[REDACTED]

Minister Woods' office has also asked for aerospace stakeholders that could potentially be visited by Hon Dr Minister Woods and the Prime Minister. MBIE will put up advice on this matter and share that with all other agencies.

[REDACTED]

Withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982.

The CAA mentioned that it had in-depth engagements with a number of aerospace stakeholders to increase its knowledge of their development plans, to understand potential regulatory challenges and to help identify future regulatory pathways. It also launched six different projects to address several aspects of the Part 102 application process. The CAA emphasised that the demand for applications is still present and that it is not yet at a stage where it can manage them all comfortably.

Airways noted that they have attended a transport sector stakeholder meeting to discuss the possible impacts of Omicron. It also provided submissions on the Ministry's EDI, advocating for a faster implementation of updated regulation.

7. Any other business

No other points were raised.

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TE MANATŪ WAKA MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT