

1 August 2025

Dear landowner

Re: WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED DECISION ON DESIGNATION WIAL₁ IN THE PROPOSED WELLINGTON CITY DISTRICT PLAN

We write to advise that Wellington International Airport Limited has made a decision on designation WIAL₁ – Obstacle Limitation Surfaces in the Proposed Wellington City District Plan (**PDP**).

Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (**OLS**) are defined three dimensional surfaces that radiate outwards from an airport's runway strip and exist in the airspace above and adjacent to the airport. They are necessary to enable aircraft to maintain a satisfactory level of safety while manoeuvring at low altitude in the vicinity of the airport and to protect against collision.

The designation protects the airspace for the safe and efficient operation of Wellington International Airport. It applies to most of Wellington City but varies in how it applies for each property. How to determine how the OLS applies to your property is explained below.

Why are you receiving this letter?

Under Clause 13(4) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Wellington City Council (the Council) must, within 15 working days after a decision is made on a designation as part of a district plan review, notify submitters and landowners and occupiers directly affected by the decision, and inform them of the time within which an appeal against the decision may be lodged by a submitter on the OLS designation.

Background

The PDP was notified on 18 July 2022 which included modification to the existing WIAL OLS designation. An Independent Hearings Panel (Panel) considered this designation and made recommendations to the Council for consideration. You can view the designation report from the Panel [here](#).

At its meeting on 12 June 2025 the Council disagreed with the Panel recommendations for this designation. In respect of WIAL₁ designation the Council has recommended further modifications under s171(2) of the RMA.

The modifications are to:

1. Exclude areas that are adequately shielded by terrain from the mapped OLS; and
2. Increase the Inner Horizontal Surface and Conical Surface penetration height allowance from 8 metres to 11 metres.

For more information, including the Council's decision, go to wellington.govt.nz/districtplandecisions (scroll down to the link to [Minutes of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee - 12 June 2025](#)).

The Airport's Decision

Subsequently, WIAL confirmed on 11 July 2025 that it rejects the Council's recommendation to further modify the WIAL₁ OLS Designation and generally adopts the reasons of the Panel in its Report 10 Designations (pages 39 to 59) for this decision, with additional reasons outlined in WIAL's decision.

WIAL has determined that the designation be confirmed as recommended by the Panel, with further minor modifications in response to the Council's recommendations.

For the full WIAL decision go to wellington.govt.nz/airport-ols.

For the Panel Report 10 Designations go [here](#) and scroll down to Briefing 4.

How does the WIAL1 designation affect you and your property?

The designation requires that any person proposing to construct or alter a building, object or structure that penetrates the OLS may require approval from WIAL under section 176(1)(b) of the RMA depending on the extent of the penetration into the OLS generally as follows:

- Take-off, Approach, Transitional, Inner Horizontal and Conical Surfaces – where 8m above existing ground level is exceeded; and
- Outer Horizontal Surface – where 30m above existing ground level is exceeded.

You can use the District Plan maps at <https://eplan.wellington.govt.nz/proposed/> to search your property to understand which part of the OLS applies, and when you should notify or seek approval from WIAL. Once you have entered a specific property into the search bar, scroll to the bottom of the property summary on the left of your screen to identify the applicable height over which WIAL approval is required.

For more information on the OLS and the approvals process, or to talk to someone about what the OLS means for you and your property check the WIAL OLS webpage: Obstacle Limitation Surface Designation (wellingtonairport.co.nz) or contact WIAL at WIAL1_OLS@wellingtonairport.co.nz.

Who can make an appeal?

A person who made a submission on the WIAL1 OLS requirement may appeal to the Environment Court on this matter. If this applies to you, you have 30 days from the date of this notice to lodge an appeal.

Under Clause 14(4) of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 any appeal must be in the prescribed form. More information on the appeal process can be found on the Environment Court website at www.environmentcourt.govt.nz. This includes details of who can appeal, when and how to file an appeal, and the filing fee for appeals.

If you have any questions relating to the district plan, please contact us by email on district.plan@wcc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi

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