

Noise Mitigation Programme

**Report No 7
October 2006**

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an update on the Noise Mitigation Programme from April 2006 to October 2006. The report should be read in conjunction with previous Noise Mitigation Programme reports which provide details of the entire Programme and progress since October 2003. Reports are produced every six months.

The Noise Mitigation Programme provides for offers of acoustic treatment which are made to owners of various Activities Sensitive to Aircraft Noise (ASANs) in noise impacted areas around Auckland International Airport (AIA), under Condition 10 of Designation 231. This designation forms part of the Manukau District Plan.

AIAL's general requirements under the Programme fall into the following areas:

1. Existing Buildings subject to noise from Aircraft Operations;
2. Existing Buildings subject to Engine Testing Noise; and
3. New Buildings at Educational Facilities.

This report assumes that the reader is familiar with the terminology used in Designation 231 and for that reason definitions and terms from the designation and from the operative Manukau District Plan are used without further definition in this report.

2.0 Existing Buildings Subject to Noise from Aircraft Operations

The Airport Designation categorises three types of Existing Buildings:

- ? Educational Facilities
- ? Registered Pre-schools
- ? Others (predominately household units (referred to as dwellings in this report) but also includes child centres, hospitals, and rest homes etc).

AIAL is required to offer acoustic treatment to the owners of these Existing Buildings when the predicted noise level from aircraft operations reaches specified levels. In order to know when these offers should be made AIAL produces Annual Aircraft Noise Contours (AANCs). Progress with offers of acoustic treatment relating to each set of AANCs is outlined below.

2.1 Offers to Existing Dwellings

2.1.1 Offers relating to the 2004 AANCs

Under the 2004 AANCs, offers of acoustic treatment packages were made to the owners of 471 dwellings in March and April 2005. These offers were open for 12 months and have now closed.

AIAL's offer was accepted for 47 properties. 45 of these properties are inside the Ldn 60 dBA contour and two are inside the Ldn 65 dBA contour. 38 of the properties are owned by Housing New Zealand. Work to install the acoustic treatment packages at these properties is proceeding.

In March 2006 a further 23 offers were made to apartments on a property in Freemans Way who had not been included in the initial offer. These offers are open until March 2007.

2.1.2 Offers relating to the 2005 AANCs

As outlined in previous reports, no further offers are required to be made based on the 2005 AANCs.

2.1.3 Offers relating to the 2006 AANCs

The 2006 AANCs were published on 21 May 2006. Previously the contours had been prepared based solely on noise modeling information using a programme called INM. As AIAL has now been undertaking noise monitoring in the community for three years, monitoring data was also taken into account in preparing the contours. This meant that the contours moved out further into the community.

Based on these contours, offers of acoustic treatment packages were required to be made to the owners of 653 dwellings in October 2006.

The offers are sent out using the same process as that used for offers sent in March and April 2005. To assist owners in understanding the offers, AIAL again sent a brochure to explain the offers. This was sent to homeowners about a week prior to the offers being made.

Manukau City Council (MCC) again agreed to forward the brochures and offer letters to homeowners using data from the Council's ratepayer database to ensure that the information reached the homeowner. Included with the offers was information relating to claiming a "hardship" grant from the Auckland Airport Community Trust.

In mailing out offers, they are divided into groups to assist with managing the process. These groups are outlined in figure 1.

Group #	Description of Group	Date offer letter sent	Offer sent by	# offers made
1	Approx one third of offers	13 October	MCC	194
2	Approx one third of offers	29 October	MCC	205
3	Approx one third of offers	10 November	MCC	208
4	Properties for which Manukau City Council had no records (hand delivered to physical address)	29 October	AIAL	46

Figure 1. Details of offers to owners of existing dwellings made by AIAL in 2006

Problems with matching the AIAL and MCC databases meant that the mail-out of offers was delayed by around a month. At the date of this report, offers had been sent to group 1 below. All offers will have been made by 10 November 2006.

2.1.4 Offers relating to the 2007 AANCs

The 2007 AANCs were due to be published in October 2006. Preliminary work by AIAL showed that the contours would be smaller than those published previously meaning that no offers of acoustic treatment would be required.

After discussion with MCC it was decided that publishing these contours at the same time as making acoustic treatment offers from the 2006 AANCs would be confusing. As no acoustic treatment offers will be required based on these contours, they will now be published in February 2007.

Designation 231 requires that offers of acoustic treatment be made "before any part of an affected site falls within" the specified contours. Previously AIAL had interpreted this as meaning that the offers were to be made at the same time that the contours were published. AIAL has now reviewed this position and as the AANC is a prediction of aircraft noise for the following 12 months, AIAL now believes that this condition will have been met provided that offers are made within 12 months of the AANC being published. After discussion with MCC it has been agreed that in the future contours will be prepared in October each year and offers made in April the following year. This separates the process of publishing contours and making offers meaning that differing contours will not confuse the offer process.

2.2 Existing Educational Facilities

Based on the 2004 AANCs, Puhinui Primary School qualified for an acoustic treatment offer in April 2005. This offer was made to the Ministry of Education (MOE) on 21 April 2005 and has now been accepted by the MOE. AIAL is now proceeding with developing the package that will be installed at the school as specific designs need to be created for each school individually.

Based on the 2006 AANCs, Redoubt North School, Clover Park Middle School and the South Auckland Seventh Day Adventist School qualified for an acoustic treatment offer in October 2006. These offers were made on 20 October 2006 as required and AIAL is currently awaiting responses from the school owners.

2.3 Existing Registered Preschools

Two existing registered preschools qualified for an acoustic treatment offer in April 2005. Offers were made to the owners of these properties on 21 April 2005 and AIAL visited both properties. Te Kohanga Reo O Te Rangimaria have accepted AIAL's offer. Details relating to the ownership of the land are currently being resolved.

Based on the 2006 AANCs one preschool qualified for an offer of acoustic treatment. This offer was made on 20 October 2006 and AIAL is currently awaiting a response from the owner.

3.0 Existing Buildings Subject to Engine Testing Noise

These offers were made to the owners of 13 Existing Buildings within the specified Ldn 57 Area in April 2004. Offers were open for one year. No offers were accepted and offers have now closed.

4.0 New Buildings at Educational Facilities

Under Conditions 10(k) & 10(m), AIAL is obligated to offer funding for acoustic treatment in new noise sensitive buildings at both existing and new public Educational Facilities in the MANA.

The requirement to make those offers is conditional on certification from the Ministry of Education. Basically AIAL's role is a reactionary one after advice from the MoE.

In previous years funding has been provided for new buildings at educational facilities as shown in the figure 2.

School Name	Details	Year
Redoubt North School	6 new classrooms	2004
Puhinui School	3 new classrooms plus a plant room to serve these and six existing classrooms (funded as new and existing educational facility)	2004
Papatoetoe South School	2 new classrooms	2005
Chapel Downs School (details below)	3 new classrooms plus new library (funded as new and existing educational facility)	2006

Figure 2. Educational facilities which have received new building funding from AIAL.

In September 2005, AIAL received information regarding work to be undertaken at Chapel Downs School. This involved the relocation and upgrade of an existing library and classroom to create three teaching spaces as well as the construction of a new library. The work has now been completed. As the construction of a new library was required due to roll growth, AIAL funded 75% of this as required. AIAL also provided 100% of the funding for the acoustic treatment required on the existing buildings which were relocated. This funding is not usually given until the AANCs reach the school, as outlined in 2.2 above, however AIAL believed that it was appropriate to provide this funding at the same time as other work was being undertaken at the school.

Tegan Brown
Environmental Planner

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