

## 4.7 Wildlife Hazard Management

**Responsibility** - Chief Executive / Operations Manager / Wildlife Officer / RFS Contractor

**Requirement** - Rule 139.71

**Documentation** - Wildlife Hazard Management Plan and Airport Rescue Fire Manual, AC139-16

### 4.7.1 Situation

New Plymouth Airport is a coastal airport surrounded on three sides by farmland which is used for predominantly dairy and horticultural purposes and on the fourth side by cliff formations. In addition, the operational area of the airfield has large areas of grassland. This environment is extremely attractive to birds.

### 4.7.2 Overview

Both proactive and reactive techniques are used to mitigate wildlife hazards. Birds are considered to be the most significant wildlife hazard. The Wildlife Hazard Management Plan involves the use of rescue fire service personnel, a delegated Wildlife Officer, grass maintenance and spraying techniques, bird scaring devices, lethal and non-lethal techniques.

### 4.7.3 Programme

Details of this programme are provided in the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, Airport Rescue Fire Manual and within the Airport's on file resources.

### 4.7.4 Problem Species

The following birds have been identified as problem species at New Plymouth Airport:

- Finch
- Lark
- Sparrow
- Oystercatcher
- Hawk
- Swallow
- Magpie
- Black gull
- Spur-wing plover

### 4.7.5 Overview

The elements of the New Plymouth Airport bird control programme are:

- An active campaign by an Airport Wildlife Officer and Rescue Fire Service staff on the airfield to scare, disturb or kill birds. The staff involved will drive to the location of bird activity, sound horn and/or use bird scaring devices. This includes bird scaring shot gun and/or bird deterring laser.
- Firearms with live ammunition, "birdfrite" or similar approved cracker cartridges as well as pyrotechnics may be used.
- Use of all non-operational grass areas for hay and silage making, thus reducing the attractiveness of these areas to plovers and other species.
- Application of spray to kill grubs and worms and thus reduce the availability of food on grass runways and taxiways as and when required.
- Grass mowing to a specified height.

### 4.7.6 Bird Hazard Reports

Electronic bird hazard reports for New Plymouth Airport are received by the Airport management from CAA on a monthly and quarterly basis. These are analysed and evaluated in conjunction with data collected by the Airport on a frequent basis to assess the effectiveness of the overall wildlife hazard

management programme. Reports are loaded into the Airport's BWARE reporting system to assist in identifying trends and patterns within bird scaring effectiveness and activities. Copies of reports from the CAA are also sent to the Airport Wildlife Officer and RFS personnel.

Wildlife hazard data is stored in the [WHM Trend Analysis Register](#)

## 4.7.7 Population Control and Bird Scaring

The Airport Wildlife Officer and RFS staff are responsible for wildlife population control and bird scaring. Only staff who hold valid firearms licences are authorised to kill or scare problem birds as per the Wildlife Hazard Management Plan.

Firearms are held by the Airport and the RFS Contractor in secure locations in strict accordance with the Firearms Act. Where birds or other animals are destroyed by shooting, carcasses should be disposed of in accordance with the Wildlife Disposal Procedure. Where species are protected, the terms of the Department of Conservation Permit to disturb or kill protected species are to be observed.

## 4.7.8 Grass Maintenance

Grass runways, taxiways and grass verges to runways and taxiways are kept mown. Other areas outside the airfield operational boundary are leased for the purpose of hay and silage making. Grass is permitted to grow outside the grass runways, taxiways and verges and, depending on the season, may range in height from 40-70mm in accordance with the New Plymouth Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Plan

## 4.7.9 Food Source Control

Regular sampling of the mown areas of the aerodrome is undertaken to assess the levels of food available to birds on the airfield. This is carried out by taking turf samples (approx. 300mm x 300mm) from areas where birds are congregating and which are checked for the presence of grass-grub, porina and worms. This sampling is undertaken routinely to ensure food sources are maintained at minimal levels.

The Airport operates an annual spraying schedule with a third-party contractor to ensure that food sources are eliminated.

## 4.7.10 Other Wildlife Hazard Management

Stock or other animals identified on any operational areas of the airfield must be managed and removed in accordance with the Airport Wildlife Hazard Management Plan.

Any confirmed sightings of stock and/or animals on any of the operational areas of the aerodrome must be immediately communicated to the duty Air Traffic Control Officer who shall inform any aircraft that may be affected.

The duty Air Traffic Control Officer shall request RFS or the Airport Wildlife Officer remove, contain or destroy (last resort) the stock and/or animals. RFS and/or the Wildlife Officer must report the incident to the Operations Manager.

As an additional resource, the Animal Control Officer department at New Plymouth District Council will be notified to assist in capturing, destroying and removal of stock/animals.

Regular boundary inspections are completed with reporting on conditions and any breaches of fencing, secured gates or restricted access areas.

## 4.8 Notification of Aerodrome Data and Information

**Responsibility** - Chief Executive / Operations Manager

**Requirement** - Rule 139.77(a)(11), 139.73, 139.76

**Documentation** - AIPNZ and related ACNZ/CAA procedures, AC139-9