

Summary of CAA Board meeting - 27 August 2026

29 September 2026



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The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Board met on 27 August 2026 to consider organisational performance, strategic priorities, financial sustainability, aviation security, regulatory programmes, and governance matters.

CAA Board members in attendance

- Chair – Mark Darrow
- Deputy Chair – Mike Schubert
- Members – Simon Craddock, Darin Cusack, Peter O'Regan, Louise Pengelly and Mel Templeton
- The CAA Executive Leadership team attended, along with specific item leads.

Governance

The Board noted the registers of declarations and confirmed that no conflicts of interest were identified in relation to agenda items. It also noted the Board Annual Workplan, approved the minutes of the June and July 2026 meetings subject to minor amendments, and reviewed the Board action register and correspondence register.

Financial Sustainability

The Board considered the updated long-term financial projections, incorporating 'business as usual', projects and the Business Transformation Programme (BTP) budget. The Board noted that operational efficiencies and technology improvements are reducing aviation security costs and that international passenger numbers are currently exceeding forecast levels.

Procurement and Operational Investments

The Board approved progressing contract negotiations for the supply of uniforms and corporate clothing. The new contract will demonstrate value for money throughout the contract term by maintaining pricing in accordance with the agreed pricing schedule, minimising waste, excess inventory and garment obsolescence and improving ordering and fulfilment efficiency.

The Board also approved CAA to enter into a contract for the Hold Baggage Screening (HBS) Replacement Programme. CAA undertook a competitive procurement process, in accordance with the Government's Procurement Guidelines. The programme will replace HBS equipment at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Queenstown, Dunedin, Invercargill and Hamilton Airports. CAA is working closely with the airports to plan the installation of the new HBS equipment. The Board noted that the programme will enhance aviation security capability and remains within approved funding levels.

Rules Update Programme (RUP)

Work is also underway to establish a rolling programme of rule development so that regulations can respond more effectively to technological change.

The Board approved the RUP overall cost estimate through to FY2028 and noted future funding decisions will be considered through standard budget processes.

Organisational Performance

The Board approved the CAA's FY2025/26 Quarter Four performance report. Discussion focused on certification timeliness and processing performance, growth in certification applications—including increased demand relating to drone operations—and progress against Board priorities, including fiscal sustainability and the First Principles Funding Review. The Board also discussed continued improvements within organisational productivity and performance reporting.

Business Transformation

The BTP will transform our core services through technology. The Board received an update on progress and the development of a supporting business case. The Board noted work underway to identify benefits for aviation participants and the wider sector, public and economic outcomes, and CAA operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Initial analysis indicates potential benefits through reduced administrative burden, more efficient regulatory processes, and improved user experience.

Aviation Security

The Board received updates on aviation security activities, including a recent emergency management exercise and received a classified briefing.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

The Board discussed health and safety issues relating to baggage handling operations at Wellington Airport. It noted that further improvements are required in baggage handling work environments and that CAA is assessing baggage handling operations across major airports. Work is also underway with airport operators and health and safety specialists to support improved design standards and operating practices.



Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand

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