

# 2026 Conference Programme

Takina Event Centre in Wellington

Sunday 6 to Monday 8 September 2026

## Sunday 6 September

1200 - 1600 Trade exhibitors pack in during the day.

1000 **Workshop - “Error Reduction in Organisations and avoiding error traps”**  
(Venue: Matiu Room at Takina)

A practical workshop with Matt Schlapfer from Fisher Technologies. Matt is a specialist in human performance and system reliability.

<https://www.improvewithfit.com/about-us/fisher-improvement-technologies-team>

This workshop focuses on the real-world causes of operational errors and how to recognise them before they lead to incidents. Matt will break down common error traps, demonstrate proven tools for reducing mistakes, and show how small changes in process and communication can make a big difference in day-to-day operations. Ideal for those who want to sharpen their situational awareness and strengthen error management practices.

1530 Workshop concludes

## NZAAA Session

1530 - 1700 **Pete Gordon** facilitator – Part 137 Chief Pilot/E Cat Instructor meeting

| Topics                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Part 61 changes rules update program                         |
| E Cats and E Cat Flight examiners                            |
| Annual flight competency checks                              |
| The introduction of new technology and managing distractions |
| Chief pilot management challenges and responsibilities       |
| Training standards                                           |

## Networking

1700 Welcome Function sponsored by **Aspeq**

1900 Welcome Function concludes

## Monday 7 September

### Plenary Session

0900 Welcome to Conference opening - **Jehan Casinader**, Master of Ceremonies

0905 Opening Remarks - **Don McCracken**, President, AIANZ.

0910 Principal Sponsor address.

0915 **Keynote address and Q&A**  
**Hon James Meager, Associate Minister of Transport**

The Minister will outline the Government's progress against the Aviation Action Plan and set out other priorities and key matters in his role as Acting Minister of Transport with responsibility for aviation.

1000

**Keynote address and Q&A.**

**Kate Boyer, Chief Operating Officer, Air New Zealand**

**A strategic reset for the national carrier**

Kate's presentation will cover the airline's recent strategy reset as well as covering the airline's response to the challenges it has been facing this year, including dealing with the global fuel crisis.

1030

Morning Tea.

1100

**Presentation**

**"Moving from Concepts to Behaviour" – Matt Schlapfer**

Matt Schlapfer of Fisher Technologies explores how organisations can turn safety and performance concepts into consistent, observable actions that shape culture and outcomes. Matt has extensive experience in human performance and system reliability and will outline practical approaches for bridging the gap between knowing and doing - helping organisations move past theory to embed the right behaviours in daily operations.

***Supported by Jumpjet Airlines***

1145

**Political Panel - Election 2026**

**Q&A session**

With the General Election drawing close on 7 November, this is an opportunity to hear from the transport spokespeople from the political parties. MPs will be questioned on their party policies and what they see as priorities for the aviation industry.

- Tangi Utikere, MP for Palmerston North, Labour Party.
- Hon Julie-Anne Genter, MP for Rongotai, The Greens.

- Simon Court, List MP, Act Party.
- Andy Foster, List MP, New Zealand First Party.
- National Party to confirm MP representation

***Supported by Fenix UAS.***

1230 Lunch

### Divisional Sessions

| NZAAA Divisional Session                                                                                                                                                      | NZHA Divisional Session                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1330 <b>Kent Weir</b> Chairman NZAAA<br>Welcome                                                                                                                               | 1330 <b>Scott McKenzie</b><br>Chairman NZHA – Welcome                                                                                                          |
| 1335 <b>Michael Whittaker</b> Chairman<br>Tabula – Development &<br>functionality update                                                                                      | 1340 <b>TBC</b>                                                                                                                                                |
| 1405 <b>David Manktelow – Applied<br/>Research &amp; Technologies</b> Spray<br>quality and managing off-target drift<br>for aerial application. Off label<br>agrichemical use | 1400 <b>Mike Hall</b> – The challenges of<br>offshore contracting                                                                                              |
| 1445 <b>Andrew Pattullo</b> NZ Forestry Sales<br>Manager Kenso NZ Challenges in<br>the agrichemical market                                                                    | 1420 <b>Matt Harper</b> Chief Executive<br>Officer, Aerial Application<br>Association of Australia –<br>Emerging risks from wind farms and<br>drones (20 mins) |
|                                                                                                                                                                               | 1440 <b>Q&amp;A session</b> – ask presenters a<br>question                                                                                                     |

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
|  | 1450 NZHA AGM |
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NOTE: Other AIANZ divisions to confirm programmes for afternoon

1500 Afternoon tea in trade exhibition space

Plenary Session

1530 **Keynote Session**

**Catherine MacGowan** - CAA Deputy Chief Executive - Observations on risk based/intelligence led certification and monitoring

1600 **Panel Session facilitated by Kent Weir** - NZAAA Chairman moderator - Costs, supply chains, risks, challenges

**Paul Marais** (Manager Material Support and Logistics, Airbus Helicopters NZ)

TBC (**Pratt & Whitney**)

**Rob Bolton** (Go Fuels)

**Andrew Mackay** (Director Field Air)

**Mike Evans** (Saffran)

**Philipp Antwerpen** (Executive General Manager MRO Salus Aviation)

1645 NZAAA AGM

Networking

1700 Networking Function

1930 Networking Function concludes.

## Tuesday 8 September

0800      AIANZ AGM - Members only  
  
(to be held at Takina).

### Plenary Session

0845      Recap on Day 1 of Conference by Jehan Casinader

0850      **Keynote address and Q&A**  
**Gareth Kiernan, Principal Economist, Infometrics**

**The economic outlook, globally and locally.**

Gareth's presentation will cover the economic outlook, domestically and globally, with a specific focus on how this may impact the aviation industry.

### Safety Managers Session running concurrently with Plenary Session

0900 - 1645      **AIANZ/CAA Safety Manager and Occurrence Investigator Workshop –  
Safety Investigations and Applied Techniques**

Workshop keynote address Matt Schlapher: Applying Task, Environment, Design, and Self (TEDS) to Safety Investigations.

A practical look at how the TEDS can be used to identify underlying factors that drive human error and system weaknesses to move investigations beyond blame to reveal actionable insights and meaningful improvement opportunities.

### Plenary Session

0920 **Keynote address and Q&A**

**Kane Patena, Chief Executive and Director of the Civil Aviation Authority**

**A strategic update from the CAA**

Kane will cover the key matters for the Authority in its work with the industry, including the Rules Refresh programme, the First Principles Funding Review, as well as providing reflections on his first year in the job.

This will be followed by Q&A.

***Supported by QBE Insurance***

1000 **Panel - The Challenges Facing Regional Airlines**

Regional airlines have been facing several challenges over the past few years as they strive to maintain important services to regional New Zealand. Hear from some of their leaders about the challenges they are facing.

- Duane Emeny, Air Chathams,
- Mahanga Maru, Air Ruatoria.
- Dan Power, Sunair

1045 Morning Tea

1115 **Presentation**

**Peter Kniepp, Lake Fusion Technologies Situational Awareness System (SitAwS).**

SitAwS provides pilots assistance to identify wires, terrain, and other hazards before they become a threat. Using advanced LiDAR technology, SitAwS builds a 3D picture of the surroundings in real time highlighting physical hazards in the flight path and

landing zone and providing alerts.

1145 **Panel, Rising Stars in Aviation**

- Jim Orchard, helicopter pilot.
- Kent Mackenzie, fixed wing agricultural pilot.
- Lyndsey Morrison-Barnes, air traffic controller.
- Alex Owen-Cooper, drone operator.
- Louis Roughton, engineer.

***Supported by Service IQ***

1230 Lunch

**Divisional Session**

1330-1500 Divisional Sessions

| <b>NZAAA Divisional Session</b> |                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>NZHA Divisional Session</b>                                                                                                                   | <b>UAVNZ Divisional session</b>                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1330                            | <b>Warwick Catto</b> Science Strategy Manager, Ballance Agri Nutrients<br><b>Mike White</b> Chief Science Officer, Ravensdown<br>Technology/product/market updates | 1330 <b>Jeff Shearer TAIC</b> – Findings from the Kawasaki BK117 Collision with terrain Mount Pirongia. Establishing Vortex Ring State           | 1330-1400 CAA (30 minutes) - Rules update program |
| 1400                            | <b>Travis Churchill</b> Spread Test NZ - observations from pattern testing liquids and solids for                                                                  | 1400 <b>Duncan Ferrier</b> Barrister Capital Chambers – A pathway to compliance being proactive rather than reactive to regulatory interventions | 1400-1415 Defence update                          |

|                                                                                                      |                                                         |                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| fixed wing, helicopters and UAV's                                                                    | 1440 <b>Q&amp;A session</b> – ask presenters a question | 1415-1430 Airshare (15 minutes)                                                                        |
| 1420 <b>Alister Holmes</b> - Fertiliser quality and reducing off-target drift for aerial application |                                                         | 1430-1500 UAVNZ Workshop: Advocacy, Regulation & Industry Priorities (30 minutes) UAVNZ Exec committee |
| 1445 <b>Q&amp;A session</b> – ask presenters a question                                              |                                                         |                                                                                                        |

1500 Afternoon tea in Exhibition space

**NOTE: Other AIANZ divisions to confirm programmes for afternoon**

**Plenary Session joined by the Safety Managers Workshop attendees**

1530 - 1645 **Incident Review Meeting (IRM)**

Moderator, Scott McKenzie, Chair, NZ Helicopter Association (NZHA).

**Southern Lakes Helicopters:** ZK-IYY Accident/CAA Enforceable Undertaking

**Michael Hayes** CEO - My experience: Section 15A notice, restrictions on AOC, CAA intervention, business outcomes, institutional cultures

**Richie Hunter** Safety Manager - Lessons learnt

1530 – 1700 Trade Exhibitor Pack out

**Conference Close**

1645 Conference sum up and close.

MC **Jehan Casinder** and Chief Executive **Simon Wallace**

1700 Conference closes.

### Gala Dinner and Awards

1900 Gala Dinner and Awards with further details to be advised.

Midnight Evening concludes

End.