

AUCKLAND TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT
QANTAS GROUP SUBMISSION
21 OCTOBER 2022

The Qantas Group appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Airways' Auckland Airport air traffic control (ATC) tower replacement project. The Group's responses to each of the questions set out in the consultation paper are provided below.

Question One: Do you have any feedback on the Auckland ATC Tower replacement options outlined?

The consultation paper outlines the three options for a replacement ATC tower, considering the risks associated with each option. Of these three options, which present an adequate range of solutions, the Qantas Group supports a fully digital tower for the Auckland Tower replacement (Option Three).

We consider the current situation at Auckland Airport presents a unique opportunity to implement a fully digital tower as part of New Zealand's modern airspace management system.

The implementation of technology to utilise a digital service platform has been proven elsewhere in the world and will become the new standard for ATC at airports.

Airways has identified that extensive stakeholder engagement throughout the implementation process, leveraging experiences from other parts of the world, may mitigate the potential risk of the digital tower option. The Qantas Group supports this approach.

Question Two: Do you have any feedback on Airways preferred approach for the replacement of the Auckland ATC Tower?

The Qantas Group appreciates the approach taken by Airways to the replacement tower project, including its transparent decision-making process and stakeholder engagement.

The preferred replacement approach proposed by Airways is to implement a digital contingency solution while progressing works required for a hybrid tower option. The Qantas Group recommends progressing the digital tower solution as the preferred option, with the hybrid tower solution reserved as a backup should there be an assessment closer to implementation that the digital tower solution is not possible.

Question Three: Do you have any feedback on the changes highlighted to the Capital Plan in 5.1?

The Qantas Group's preferred proposal – the digital tower – is the most cost effective when compared to the other two options.

We request guidance from Airways on the likely pricing impact over current charges for each of the three options. We also seek clarification on how Airways' 'work in progress' methodology for capital expenditure will be applied for this project.

The Qantas Group supports further consideration regarding the feasibility of the timing of capital expenditure given the impact of COVID on the industry and its recovery.