

## Event backgrounder: Minister attending signing ceremony between Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology and Air New Zealand in Blenheim

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| <b>To:</b>        | Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education          |
| <b>From:</b>      | Deirdre Marshall, Manager Delivery and Projects |
| <b>Date:</b>      | 16 August 2023                                  |
| <b>Reference:</b> | E-23-00724                                      |

### Purpose

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1. You are attending a ceremony on Sunday 20 August 2023 in Blenheim to witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT) campus of Te Pūkenga and Air New Zealand (Air NZ). You have also agreed to deliver a short, 5-7 minute speech at the event.
2. This event backgrounder provides you with information about the NMIT/Te Pūkenga and Air NZ MoU; and a brief summary of Te Pūkenga's current aviation provision. Speech notes for the ceremony are provided separately (SP/23/00723 refers).
3. We recommend that you release this event backgrounder in full.

### About the MoU between NMIT | Te Pūkenga and Air NZ

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4. This collaboration will involve the sharing of resources and information between NMIT and Air NZ with a vision of encouraging participation and ensuring quality within the aviation engineering profession through education. Among the initiatives are alignment on Level 3 and Level 4 aviation engineering programmes with Air NZ and industry programmes; the sharing of resources such as facilities and equipment; and internship opportunities.
5. Combining expertise, resources, and commitment to excellence, NMIT and Air NZ will collectively contribute to the advancement of aviation education and training in New Zealand by working to build and strengthen education opportunities for learners. In particular, NMIT and Air NZ agree to collaborate on activity for the achievement of the following mutual objectives:
  - Level 3 Aviation Engineering Programme – In response to aviation industry demand, NMIT will work with Air NZ to develop and run an Aviation Engineering Level 3 programme aligned to Air NZ's current Level 3 programme. Sharing good practice and resources will ensure ākonga are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge required by the aviation industry.
  - Level 4 Aviation Engineering Programme – Alignment of the NMIT current Level 4 offering with the requirements of the aviation industry, including contents for a block course format tailored to modern aviation engineering facilities.

- License Exams – NMIT will investigate, with the intent to develop and offer, Civil Aviation Authority aircraft maintenance engineer license (CAA AMEL) exams.
  - Trades Academy – Air NZ will present career opportunities to NMIT Trades Academy ākonga. The Trades Academy Level 2 Aviation Engineering programme, designed for Marlborough/Tasman-based secondary school students, will run from NMIT’s Woodbourne campus in 2024.
  - Industry Exposure and Internship Opportunities – A placeholder is held on NMIT’s new aviation Industry Advisory Group for Air NZ to help inform aviation programme development.
6. This MoU is an example of Te Pūkenga offering an important employer, Air New Zealand, a comprehensive suite of education and training options that best meets its needs. For its part, Air New Zealand needs to recruit more aircraft engineers to continue to meet its strategic objectives, which include growing domestic services to centres that include Blenheim and Nelson.
7. Marlborough’s Mayor and local leaders are also keen to further develop opportunities and activity at Marlborough Airport (RNZAF Base Woodbourne).

## Aviation provision at Te Pūkenga

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8. According to the latest information provided by Te Pūkenga, the tertiary education organisation currently arranges on-the-job training via ServiceIQ/Te Pūkenga for 134 Air NZ ākonga through the higher levels of aviation engineering. Approximately 70 apprentices are undertaking the NZ Apprenticeship in Aeronautical Engineering, while 50 are undertaking Level 6 diplomas in aeronautical engineering, aeronautical maintenance, and aeroplane airline preparation. Other Air NZ trainees undertake training in ground handling and aeronautical storekeeping at Level 3.



**Deirdre Marshall**

Manager Delivery and Projects,  
Tertiary Education Commission  
16 August 2023



**Hon Jan Tinetti**

Minister of Education

   20 / 08 / 2023