

Dear Tracey,

I write to you representing both Glenorchy Air and the Queenstown Milford User Group

General Aviation and smaller Part 125 airlines have been brought to our knees by the Covid-19 pandemic and have received extremely limited government funding compared to the airlines, CAA and Airways. As we come out of the pandemic we are facing record fuel prices, inflation and lack of certainty around the recovery driven by lack of airline capacity into NZ to drive tourism back up.

The idea of increased airways costs is not palatable to QMUG operators. Especially in Milford where Airways has not been providing an adequate service for several months due to the poor planning of the Airways Corporation in regards to staffing, we believe this has been driven by a perceived assumption that airways was going to be allowed to pull out of Milford Sound and not corrected when CAA mandated that the tower stay.

The section on the airways pricing document where Milford is mentioned is extremely alarming as it talks about reducing costs in Milford to a minimum safe level. The current level of service being provided is so poor that it has increased our operational risks, as a result any talk of cuts is extremely inappropriate. Frankly Airways should be in there sorting out the issues before coming to us for more money. We do not get what we pay for.

It would be appropriate in the current times for Airways to be a good corporate citizen and hold the pricing where it is until such time as operators can reasonably stomach the increases.

Given QMUG represents the Largest concentration of GA and 125 airlines in NZ we would like to be fully briefed on the pricing situation. We can make ourselves available to do this on arrangement

Kind Regards

James Stokes

Chairman
Queenstown Milford User Group

Managing Director
Glenorchy Air