

Powers and responsibilities of Airport Authorities under New Zealand legislation

Below is a non-exhaustive summary of the main powers and responsibilities conferred on airport authorities by New Zealand legislation.

Legislation	Powers	Responsibilities
Airport Authorities Act 1966	<p>Make bylaws (subject to central government approval).</p> <p>An airport authority (that is not a local authority/Council) is deemed a Government Work under the Public Works Act 1981.</p>	<p>Must consult with substantial customers regarding airport charges.</p> <p>If required by regulations made under the Act, airport authorities must supply information such as financial statements and financial forecasts to the Secretary for Transport.</p>
Resource Management Act 1991	<p>An airport authority is a network utility operator for the purposes of operating an airport as defined by the Airport Authorities Act 1966.</p> <p>A network utility operator may seek approval from the Minister for the Environment to become a requiring authority.</p> <p>A requiring authority can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply to the local authority to designate land. (A designation is a provision in a district plan that gives notice to the community that a requiring authority intends to use land in the future for a particular work or project) • undertake works in an emergency and obtain resource consents after the work has been done • apply to the Minister of Land Information to use the compulsory acquisition powers in the Public Works Act 1981 • go on to private land (after giving notice) to undertake investigations under the Public Works Act 1981. 	

Public Works Act 1981	An airport authority (that is not a local authority/Council) can have land compulsorily taken for a public work, but only through, and with approval from, the Minister of Lands.	
Land Transport Act 1998	Powers to make and enforce bylaws (subject to central government approval).	
Litter Act 1979	An airport authority is a public authority for purposes of the Litter Act, and can appoint litter control officers and wardens.	
Public Audit Act 2001		Airport companies authorised by the Airport Authorities Act are classed as public entities under the Public Audit Act. The Auditor-General is the auditor of public entities, and public entities are subject to the information-gathering and disclosure of information requirements of the Act.
Ombudsmen Act 1975		Airport authorities are subject to the Ombudsman Act. The Ombudsman has functions under the Act to investigate decisions, acts and recommendations made by individuals and entities subject to the Act.