

According to the Principal Fire Officer, the closure of the Base will also have a detrimental effect on the local capacity to respond to civil emergencies. The Base has a rostered fire crew of at least ten at all times as well as a ready-response force of about fifty that can be called on in the event of a civil emergency. The Base is also able to provide hospital and cooking facilities and shelter for large numbers of civilians in the event of a civil emergency.

*“What we are going to miss is the day-to-day unofficial assistance and co-operation that make things easier for us and for ratepayers”.*

## 4. Economic impacts

### 4.1 Method

National input-output (IO) tables are produced reasonably regularly by Statistics New Zealand. The most recent of these is for the year ending March 1996, and this forms the basis of the Auckland/Waitakere regional IO tables. Regionalisation is done using a mix of Statistics New Zealand business demographic and population census data. Effectively, we use employment and business location data as a proxy for regional economic activity, and use this to split national business sales and purchase transactions, as recorded in the national input-output table, into regional allocations. Similarly, regional population distribution is used as a proxy to allocate household spending across regions.

An IO table shows the sales and purchases between sectors, including those between industries, households, and overseas (i.e. imports and exports). The IO table provided by Statistics New Zealand, which forms the basis for our analysis, comprises 126 separate industries, one of which – ‘defence’ – includes the activity of the Whenuapai airbase. Thus, we can use a Waitakere City regional IO table to depict the flows specific to the local defence sector.

The inter-industry nature of the IO table provides the basis for valuing the flow-on effects through the local economy of a change in one sector. That is, by manipulating the input-output table, we can derive the impact on Waitakere City of the withdrawal of the Whenuapai airbase. This estimation is typically known as *input-output* or *multiplier* analysis. The remainder of this section explains what multipliers are and how they are derived. Section 4.2 presents the results of our IO analysis of the contribution of the Base to the economies of Waitakere City and the NW sector.

#### 4.1.1 What is a multiplier?

A multiplier is a means of measuring the magnitude of the role that a particular sector plays in the overall economy. This measure takes account not just of a sector’s direct economic contribution, but also its degree of inter-relatedness with other sectors and households. For example, a sector with a relatively small number of employees may draw heavily from other sectors, and thus have a much larger economy-wide impact than its employment share would suggest.

In simple terms, derivation of industry multipliers rests on the notion that in order for a particular sector to produce goods or services, it must purchase inputs from other sectors. These sectors in turn rely on the provision of

inputs from yet more sectors, and so on. Whenuapai airbase, for example, is a user of electricity, which is provided by businesses in the electricity generation sector. Electricity generators in turn depend on inputs from the oil, gas and coal sectors, amongst others. These sectors in turn purchase materials from a range of other sectors.

Furthermore, a sector has the potential to affect the level of household spending via its role as an employer. Employment provided by the airbase, for example, provides income to the households of its employees, which is in turn used to purchase goods and services. These goods and services require additional production by their respective supplying sectors, which as we have seen above, gives rise to a chain of flow-on effects through other industries.

These simple illustrations show that the potential economic impact of Whenuapai airbase extends well beyond the immediate provision of defence services. The purpose of multipliers is to fully capture this impact.

Multipliers are essentially ratios that relate the size of the economy-wide impact resulting from an initial change in a particular sector, to the size of that initial change. Thus, an output multiplier of 2.9 for a particular sector indicates that if that sector were to increase output, economy-wide output would increase by 2.9 times that amount. Importantly, this economy-wide change includes the initial change.

There are three broad effects of an change in production activity associated with the withdrawal of Whenuapai Airbase:

- The *direct effect* is the initial decrease in the current level of expenditure by the Base.
- *Indirect effects* are the flow-on effects on supplying sectors – that is, former suppliers to Whenuapai will in turn be required to lower their production (i.e. purchases of inputs) once the Base orders cease; suppliers' reduction in production will lead to falls in their suppliers, and so on.
- *Induced effects* record the additional change in activity in the economy that is induced by a change in the income accruing to households. Each of the subsequent falls in production activity arising from the Whenuapai closure, for instance, will lead to some decline in the value of wage and salary income paid to employees (because, potentially, staff are either required to work fewer hours, or fewer staff are required). This fall in wage and salary income will depress household consumption, which in turn will put further downward pressure on production activity.

The magnitude of these effects, within given boundaries, will depend not only on the size of the initial decline (in this case taken to be the current level of expenditure of the airbase) but also on the level of 'leakages' of expenditure from the Waitakere and North West Auckland regional

economies<sup>12</sup>. This depends partly on the location of industries providing goods and services to Whenuapai (within or outside the region) and in turn where these supplier industries source their inputs from. It also depends on the propensity to consume or save of the industries or households concerned.

#### **4.1.2 Caveats**

For a host of reasons, multipliers must be interpreted with caution. In particular, three key points should be noted:

- (i) Multipliers assume that sectors combine inputs, and produce outputs, in fixed proportions.
- (ii) Multipliers take no account of induced changes in relative prices.
- (iii) Multipliers assume that labour and capital are available in unlimited quantities.

As an illustration of the effect these assumptions can have on economic impact analysis, consider the closing of the Whenuapai airbase in general terms. This will have the potential to generate unemployment. In the real world the labour force is not unlimited in size, and basic economics tells us that additional supply of a limited resource will have a tendency to lower the price of that resource. In turn, changes in input prices will tend to lead (to some degree) to substitution toward the relatively less expensive inputs (from the relatively more expensive alternatives); however, the assumptions underlying multipliers preclude this.

These effects, alone or combined, will tend to lead to a multiplier which is greater than the true economic impact on a region of a change in one industry. That is, multipliers have a tendency to overstate economic impacts.

A detailed description of multiplier methodology is set out in Appendix A.

## **4.2 Results**

Our IO analysis allows us to analyse the contribution of the Base to the regional economies of Waitakere City and the NW sector.

Because practically all defence employment in the Waitakere Territorial Authority is by the Whenuapai Base (with only a very small number of employees remaining at Hobsonville), we can reasonably assume that it accounts for almost the entire industry in our Waitakere-level regional analysis. The NW sector includes other defence activities (e.g. Devonport

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<sup>12</sup> The North West Auckland sub-region includes Rodney, Waitakere City and North Shore Territorial Authorities.

Naval Base). However, by looking at this wider region, we also capture more of the flow-on effects of Whenuapai itself.

#### 4.2.1 Output<sup>13</sup>

##### **Waitakere City**

Total gross output from the Base totals \$102.7 million. This accounts for 2.3% of total gross output in Waitakere. Table 8 sets out gross output by industry, and contribution to total gross output for Waitakere.

The output multiplier of the Base for Waitakere is 2.3<sup>14</sup>, implying that an initial \$1 increase in activity (output) by the Base generates a further \$1.30 of output elsewhere in the Waitakere economy.<sup>15</sup>

##### **NW sector**

Total gross output of the defence industry in the NW sector amounts to \$295.3 million, or 2.2% of total gross output in the region (see Table 9).

The output multiplier for defence in the NW sector is 2.5, higher than that for Waitakere alone. This suggests that the loss of the Base will result in an additional loss in output of \$153.5 million from the remainder of the NW economy. Thus, the impact of the loss of the Base on the NW districts excluding Waitakere (ie. Rodney District and North Shore City) in output terms will be around \$21.3 million.

#### 4.2.2 Employment

##### **Waitakere City**

The employment multiplier for the Base is 1.6 in Waitakere. This means that, for every additional job created on the Base itself, an additional 0.6 (FTE) positions are created elsewhere in Waitakere.<sup>16</sup>

##### **NW sector**

The employment multiplier for defence in the NW sector is 1.6, the same as for Waitakere.

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<sup>13</sup> Note that these output figures differ from our expenditure estimates in 2.6. Our analysis was hampered by lack of timeseries data from NZDF.

<sup>14</sup> Note that we have rounded the multipliers in the text to one decimal place. The calculations in the tables are derived from multipliers to four decimal places.

<sup>15</sup> To put this multiplier in perspective, the industry output multipliers for Waitakere City range in value between 1.9 and 2.9.

<sup>16</sup> The underlying assumption is that an increase in employment will cause (or is driven by) a proportionate increase in each of the other inputs, which in turn leads to additional activity and employment in other sectors. That is, it is not the increase in the Base's employment *per se*, that generates further employment elsewhere; rather it is the general increase at the Base, of which increased employment is a part.

**Table 6 Multiplier effect - Waitakere**

	Direct impact	Multiplier	Indirect effect
Employment (FTEs)	1,061 <sup>17</sup>	1.6	586
Total gross output (\$ million)	102.7	2.3	132.2

Source: NZDF, NZIER

**Table 7 Multiplier effect – NW sector**

	Direct impact	Multiplier	Indirect effect
Employment (FTEs)	1,061	1.6	681
Total gross output (\$ million)	295.3	2.5	441.3

Source: NZDF, NZIER

<sup>17</sup> Recall that this figure represents FTE employees. While overall Base employment is 1067, this includes 12 staff defined as casual. In keeping with the standard definition of FTE, we have included half of the part-time/casual staff and all of the full-time staff in our FTE calculations.

**Table 8 Industry contribution to total gross output - Waitakere**

Industry	Gross output (\$ millions)	% total gross output
Construction	632.4	13.9
Retail Trade	409.6	9.0
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	392.5	8.6
Wholesale Trade	354.9	7.8
Food, Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing	266.6	5.9
Business Services	223.6	4.9
Petroleum, Chemical, Plastic and Rubber	214.9	4.7
Property Services	213.4	4.7
Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	194.5	4.3
Textiles and Apparel Manufacturing	178.2	3.9
Metal Product Manufacturing	140.6	3.1
Transport and Storage	135.1	3.0
Finance and Insurance	133.9	2.9
Health and Community Services	125.8	2.8
Education	121.9	2.7
Communication Services	105.0	2.3
Defence	102.7	2.3
Furniture and Other Manufacturing	79.8	1.8
Local Government Administration	79.6	1.7
Personal and Other Community Services	68.2	1.5
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	66.6	1.5
Non-metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	55.1	1.2
Central Government Administration	54.6	1.2
Printing, Publishing and Recorded Media	51.4	1.1
Cultural and Recreational Services	51.0	1.1
Accommodation, Restaurants and Bars	49.7	1.1
Agriculture	45.7	1.0
Fishing	3.7	0.1
Forestry and Logging	3.5	0.1
Mining	2.6	0.1
Ownership of Owner-occupied Dwellings	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	4556.9	100

**Table 9 Industry contribution to total gross output – NW sector**

Industry	Gross output (\$ millions)	% total gross output
Construction	1728.5	12.6
Wholesale Trade	1584.2	11.6
Retail Trade	1124.5	8.2
Business Services	974.4	7.1
Property Services	682.1	5.0
Finance and Insurance	560.8	4.1
Wood and Paper Product Manufacturing	557.0	4.1
Petroleum, Chemical, Plastic and Rubber	556.8	4.1
Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing	547.2	4.0
Food, Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing	500.8	3.7
Transport and Storage	428.9	3.1
Health and Community Services	428.5	3.1
Metal Product Manufacturing	397.0	2.9
Communication Services	343.2	2.5
Textiles and Apparel Manufacturing	332.5	2.4
Printing, Publishing and Recorded Media	324.3	2.4
Education	319.6	2.3
Defence	295.3	2.2
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	285.2	2.1
Agriculture	278.5	2.0
Furniture and Other Manufacturing	211.1	1.5
Personal and Other Community Services	193.4	1.4
Cultural and Recreational Services	193.1	1.4
Accommodation, Restaurants and Bars	191.4	1.4
Local Government Administration	187.2	1.4
Central Government Administration	171.2	1.3
Non-metallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	140.0	1.0
Forestry and Logging	66.3	0.5
Fishing	34.6	0.3
Mining	29.8	0.2
Ownership of Owner-occupied Dwellings	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	13667.4	100.0

## 5. Summary of findings

- With total gross output of \$102.7 million, the Base currently accounts for 2.3% of total industry output in Waitakere City. The output multiplier of 2.3 implies that the loss of this output will result in a further \$132.2 million decline in output in the rest of the Waitakere economy.
- The defence industry output multiplier for NW sector is 2.5, suggesting that the loss of the Base will result in an additional loss in output of \$153.5 million from the remainder of the NW economy. Thus, the impact of the loss of the Base on the NW districts excluding Waitakere (ie. Rodney District and North Shore City) in output terms will be around \$21.3 million.
- The employment multiplier for the Base in Waitakere is 1.6, suggesting that the loss of the Base's 1,061 (FTE) jobs would result in the loss of an additional 586 jobs in Waitakere. The two principal contractors employed by the Base expect to make 90 staff (75 FTEs) redundant following the closure of the Base. Other local businesses are likely to experience a short-term decline in sales, until the accommodation currently occupied by Base staff is reoccupied.
- With the closure of the Base, up to 355 privately-owned homes could be released onto the market in a short space of time. This may depress local property prices. The release of a further 421 houses associated with the Base could exacerbate this effect.
- Local schools would lose pupils (in the short-term), and are likely to experience some disruption as pupils from new families move in to the area settle in. The schools would also lose a range of assistance provided by the Base, such as security, fundraising, facilities and equipment.
- Local recreation groups would lose assistance such as storage capacity for equipment, and boating facilities, as well as volunteer time and training. The withdrawal of the Base would also reduce the local capacity to respond to civil emergencies, accidents, search and rescue operations and fires.
- These impacts are likely to be mitigated by the fact that the Base's contribution to the local economies has been generally declining over the last 20 years. This gradual wind-down, together with the amount of notice of the closure, is likely to reduce the impact of the closure, on both Base staff and the local economies, from that which would otherwise have been the case.

# Appendix A Multiplier methodology

## A.1 Type I and Type II multipliers

Type I and Type II multipliers differ in the extent to which they fully capture economy-wide impacts of a sectoral change. In this study we will report Type II multipliers since they provide a more comprehensive measure of economic change. The derivation of Type II multipliers is essentially an extension of the Type I algebra; hence both Type I and Type II derivations are presented here.

The distinction between Type I and Type II multipliers is as follows:

- *Type I multipliers* measure the direct and indirect effects of a change. In the instance of an output multiplier, the direct effect is the initial change in output in the industry which is experiencing a reduction in demand. The indirect effects result from the need to produce less inputs for that industry.
- *Type II multipliers* include the direct and indirect effects, as well as the induced effect of a change. The initial direct and indirect effects result in lower employment, which in turn affects household income, which lowers demand, which lessens output, which then lowers employment further, and so on.

## A.2 Derivation of Type I multipliers<sup>18</sup>

Given an  $n$ -sector economy, the transactions matrix and the vectors of final demands and outputs can be represented as:<sup>19</sup>

$$\mathbf{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} z_{11} & z_{12} & \cdots & z_{1n} & z_{1c} \\ z_{21} & z_{22} & \cdots & z_{2n} & z_{2c} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots \\ z_{n1} & z_{n2} & \cdots & z_{nn} & z_{nc} \\ \hline z_{c1} & z_{c2} & \cdots & z_{cn} & \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{f} = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where:

<sup>18</sup> Note that the following exposition tends to use an increase in activity to illustrate. However, the logic applies equally to a decrease in activity.

<sup>19</sup> In the Inter-industry Study 1996, which forms the basis of the multiplier analysis contained in this report,  $n = 126$ .

$z_{ij}$  = sector  $i$  sales to sector  $j$

$f_j$  = sector  $j$  sales to final demand

$x_j$  = total sector  $j$  sales

The  $c$ -th row represents compensation of employees (ie. payments for labour), and the  $c$ -th column is household consumption.

The relationship between the elements of these matrices is:

$$x_i = z_{i1} + z_{i2} + \dots + z_{in} + f_i \quad (1)$$

The technical coefficients (or direct input coefficients) of sector  $j$  are written:

$$a_{ij} = z_{ij} / x_j \quad (2)$$

which in matrix form is:

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ a_{n1} & a_{n2} & \dots & a_{nn} \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus  $a_{ij}$  is the proportion of sector  $j$ 's total output (the value of which is equivalent to the value of sector  $j$ 's total input) and is made up of inputs from other sectors ( $i$ ).

Given equation (1), sector  $i$ 's sales can be rewritten and expressed in terms of technical coefficients as:

$$x_i = a_{i1}x_1 + a_{i2}x_2 + \dots + a_{in}x_n + f_i \quad (3)$$

Equations (1) and (3) respectively can be written in matrix form as:

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{Z}\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{f} \quad (4)$$

$$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{f} \quad (5)$$

where  $\mathbf{i}$  is an  $n$ -element column vector of 1s.

Recall that equations (1) and (3), and hence (6) and (7), are equivalent.

Using an  $n \times n$  identity matrix and rearranging equations (5) yields:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{I}\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{f} \\ \Rightarrow (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})\mathbf{x} &= \mathbf{f} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

From this we can derive the change in output,  $\mathbf{x}^*$ , arising from a change in final demand,  $\mathbf{f}^*$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^* = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}\mathbf{f}^* \quad (9)$$

$(\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{A})^{-1}$  is the Leontief Inverse, or the total (initial, direct and indirect) requirements matrix. This can be represented by  $\mathbf{B}$  so that:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \mathbf{B}\mathbf{f}^* \quad (10)$$

### A.2.1 Output multipliers

Re-expressing equation (10) in expanded format gives:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \begin{pmatrix} b_{11} & b_{12} & \cdots & b_{1n} \\ b_{21} & b_{22} & \cdots & b_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ b_{n1} & b_{n2} & \cdots & b_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_1^* \\ f_2^* \\ \vdots \\ f_n^* \end{pmatrix}$$

From this it can be seen that the economy-wide impact of  $f_j^*$  is:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ij} f_j^* \quad (11)$$

For  $f_j^* = 1$ ,  $\mathbf{x}^*$  reduces to:

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \sum_{i=1}^n b_{ij} \quad (12)$$

$\mathbf{x}^*$  is the (Type I) *output multiplier*: that is, how much does economy-wide output have to increase to meet a \$1 increase in final demand for the output of sector  $j$ .

### A.2.2 Value added multipliers

In principle these are calculated in the same way as for output multipliers; the distinction is that changes in sectoral output arising from a change in final demand are scaled by each sector's value added input coefficient (ie the ratio of value added to total inputs).

The value added input coefficients are calculated using the sum of the compensation of employees, the operating surplus and net indirect tax rows of the input-output table. We shall denote this sum as  $z_{vij}$ . In a manner similar to that used to derive the direct input coefficients in equation (2), the value added input coefficients are:

$$a_{vaj} = z_{vaj} / x_j \quad (13)$$

By using this to scale the impact of changes in output we have:

$$v_j^* = \sum_{i=1}^n a_{vai} b_{ij} / a_{vaj} \quad (14)$$

This is the (Type I) *value added multiplier*. Its interpretation is: how much will economy-wide value added increase, above the initial increase in sector  $j$ 's value added payments, given an increase in final demand of sector  $j$ 's output of \$1.

### A.2.3 Employment multipliers

These are calculated as for the value added multipliers, but rather than use value added to scale the output effects we have used the ratio of full time equivalent (FTE) jobs to output by sector. This employment ratio is:

$$e_j = FTE_j / x_j \quad (15)$$

Using this in our multiplier calculation gives:

$$e_j = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i b_{ij} / e_j \quad (16)$$

## A.3 Derivation of Type II multipliers

In the calculations above, the matrix elements are restricted to those within the  $n \times n$  confines of the transactions matrix of the 1996 Inter-industry tables. However, this effectively excludes the impact of changes in household income arising from additional final demand, since household income and consumption is outside of the  $n \times n$  matrix. Type II multipliers address this issue by expanding the  $n \times n$  matrix to include household consumption and compensation of employees. Households are effectively treated as another

production sector in Type II multiplier analysis, producing labour services and demanding consumption goods and services.

The technical coefficients for the household row and column are:

$$a_{cj} = z_{cj} / x_j \quad (17)$$

$$a_{ic} = z_{ic} / x_c \quad (18)$$

where:

$a_{cj}$  = the labour coefficient for sector  $j$

$a_{ic}$  = the 'household consumption' coefficient.

In equation (18),  $x_c$  represents household disposable income. For the analysis contained in this report we calculated household disposable income as the sum of:

- compensation of employees (from the input-output tables)
- self-employed earnings (derived from SNZ's *Institutional Sector Accounts*)
- dividend earnings (derived from SNZ's *Institutional Sector Accounts*)

and then subtracted tax from that sum using an average personal income tax rate derived from the *Institutional Sector Accounts*.

## Appendix B List of interviewees

The following people and organisations were interviewed as part of our social impact analysis:

- Mack Allen: Wellbeing Collaboration Project Manager, Waitakere City Council
- Peter Barber: Principal Rural Fire Officer and ex Chief Fire Officer, Urban Fire, Waitakere City
- Judy Brown: Principal, Whenuapai Primary School, Whenuapai
- Graham Deacon: Chair of Waitakere Boys High Rowing Club
- Margaret Doherty: Principal, Hobsonville Primary School, Hobsonville
- Neil Gray: Housing New Zealand Corporation, Wellington
- George Higgins: Commodore RNZAF Base Auckland Hobsonville Yacht Club
- Stu Mackenzie: Wing Commander and Base Commander, RNZAF, Whenuapai
- Manager: Serco Defence, Waitakere
- Robyn Mihaere: Principal's Secretary, Massey High School, Masey, Auckland
- Danny O'Donnel: Leisure Services Manager, Waitakere City Council
- Peter Reid: Squadron Leader, Facilities Manager, RNZAF Base Auckland
- Russell Richardson: Chief Executive, Eurest, Head Office
- Nathan Villars; Westlake Boys High
- Lesley ?: Administration, Westlake Girls High.

## Appendix C Information sources

We tried a number of sources in an attempt to gather the data we needed on the Base's employment and expenditure patterns over time. All these methods failed to provide us with the information we needed. Below we document the sources tried.

- A request in writing was sent to Peter Reid, the Facilities Manager at the Base.
- We met with Stu Mackenzie, the Base Commander. We also put our information request in an email to him. Stu ruled out the possibility of doing a survey of employee intentions on the closure of the Base, but offered information on numbers employed, etc. He later declined to provide us with this information, and directed us to Gp. Cpt. Randerson for all further data requests.
- On Stu's direction, we put a request in writing to Gp. Cpt. Randerson. Gp. Cpt. Randerson provided some statistical information after a second request and confirmed that a survey of Base employees was out of the question.
- We approached Mark Unsworth of Saunders Unsworth Ltd.
- We sent a request in writing to Peter Bollmann at RZNDF.
- Our librarian contacted the librarian at NZDF. Their librarian was advised by Ric Cullianane (Public Relations) that they would not provide us with the data we were seeking.
- We sent an Official Information Act request to the Minister of Defence and the NZDF. We received a response from this on 7 July. We received data on personnel numbers and costs from 1997, and on expenditure and income from 1998/99. However, the nature of the data provided meant that it was of little use to our analysis. It was inadequate in places, and was accompanied by the disclaimer that 'it is possible that some data were missed. I therefore cannot confirm that the data provided are complete or accurate'. Despite these inadequacies, we did run some cross-checks against our historical and input-output analysis. We found no cause to alter any of our assumptions or results.
- We also searched through NZDF Annual Reports (which didn't have data disaggregated by Base), and related websites.
- We also approached Auckland International Airport, Air New Zealand and the Auckland City Council in an attempt to get some information on the Base when it operated as an international airport.