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# IFALPA congratulates Wellington Airport on the construction of RESAs but argues that they don't go far enough

Chertsey 17 October: The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations (IFALPA) congratulates Wellington Airport in New Zealand for continuing its commitment to establish 90m Runway End Safety Areas (RESAs) at either end of runway 16/34 and acknowledges the improvement in safety that these RESAs will bring. However the Federation points out that while these new RESAs meet the minimum standard required by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) they will fall well short of the 240m beyond the 60m strip from the runway end as recommended by ICAO as best practice. At Wellington, the waters beyond the Moa Point road await just 219m from the threshold at the departure end of runway 16. Equally worrying is that at the northern end of runway 34 State Highway 1 is a mere 174m from the runway's threshold with Evans Bay only another 67m beyond that. Furthermore in the first 174m there is an embankment and wiring for an electric trolley bus.

IFALPA argues that with runway overrun and excursion incidents occurring, on average, almost weekly it is vital for the safety of passengers and crews that airports establish RESAs that comply with world's best practice, defined as twice the width of the runway they serve and extend at least 300m from runway threshold. Furthermore, this area should be firm level ground to aid access by rescue and fire fighting services. The Federation accepts that because of terrain or topography it may not be possible to meet these dimensions. When this is the case, the airport should install an Engineered Materials Arrestor System (EMAS) that provides an equivalent level of protection to passengers, crews and the general public.

IFALPA through its member Association the New Zealand Airline Pilots Association will continue to work with Wellington International Airport to achieve world best practice in runway overrun safety for Wellington Airport.

#### *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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