

AIRPORTS NEWSLETTER

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Lawyers

Merry Christmas and Thank You from Ford Sumner

December 2025

To our airport clients, supporters, and industry friends,

As 2025 draws to a close, we wanted to take a moment to reflect and share our thanks.

This year has been significant for airports in New Zealand, with major infrastructure projects, the reintroduction of international flights, new technology, leadership changes, and legislative reform amongst the challenges faced.

With challenges come great opportunities. We have been impressed by how airports and those working in the industry have approached change with positivity, collaboration, and cooperation.

We have been privileged to work alongside you on so many projects and developments this year. Thank you for your instructions and trust throughout 2025. Supporting you with your legal matters - whether navigating day-to-day issues or tackling complex challenges is deeply rewarding, and we are grateful to be part of your team.

Looking ahead, we expect several legal matters will need your attention in 2026, for example:

- **Airport registration under the Civil Aviation Act 2023** – Do you register early or wait a little longer?

- **Bylaws** – Do they need updating? When should you act? What does the new Civil Aviation Act mean for traffic enforcement at your airport?
- **Solar farms** – How do you embark on the project? What is involved?
- **Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects** – What are the risks you need to be aware of?
- **Further legislative changes in 2026** – Parliament has a busy schedule lined up. What do you need to be aware of as an airport business or supplier?

Rather than bombarding you now with answers, we'll be in touch early in the New Year with our thoughts. In the meantime, if you have any urgent legal needs, please get in contact - we've got you covered.



Holiday Closure

The Ford Sumner offices will close at **5:00pm on Monday 22 December** and reopen at **8:30am on Wednesday 14 January**. For urgent matters, you can contact Sarah at sarah@fsl.nz or **021 242 5625**.

We hope the coming weeks bring you rest, sunshine, and time with those who matter most.

Thank you for your trust and partnership in 2025 - we look forward to working with you in 2026.

Meri Kirihimete – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Best wishes from Sarah, Jaesen, and all of the Ford Sumner team.