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**Request Restricted Area NZR401 Amendment**  
**Rocket Lab Ltd**  
**Airspace user consultation**

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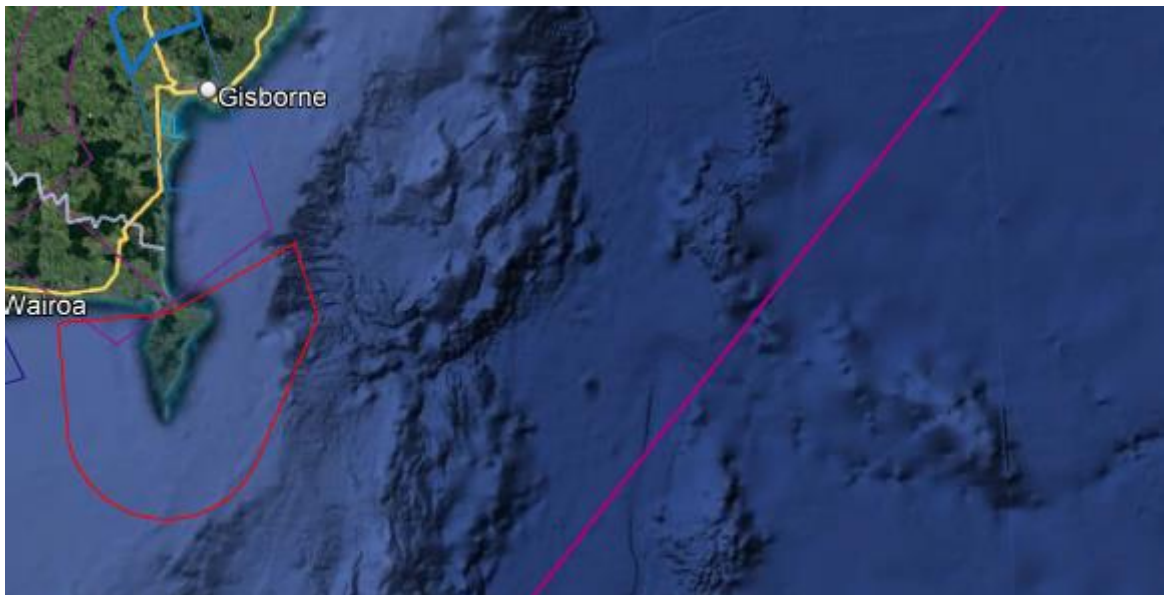
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## Introduction

Rocket Lab Limited have submitted an airspace application requesting an amendment to the current NZR401 **activity or purpose** designation.

The application requests the amendment to permit infrequent high altitude, high velocity drop tests over water within the NZR401 area. This activity involves testing Rocket Lab parachute systems in flight-like conditions; this requires high energy parachute inflations with relatively substantial drift distances and potential for hard landings in the water should there be any failure of the parachute during deployment. Recovery of the drop components will be via contracted vessel from the water with appropriate marine hazard areas notified below the drop zones to restrict access for mariners/public.

## Proposed Amendment



### NZR401

RestrictName	MAHIA
Restrict.id	400001482637428
Restrict.level_type	RESTRICT
Restrict.lowerlimit	SFC
Restrict.upperlimit	13,500 ft AMSL
Restrict.workinghours	NOTAM
Restrict.activity	SPACE_FLIGHT
Restrict.note	[Activity or Purpose:] Rocket Launch activity [Organisation or Authority:] Rocket Lab Ltd, Shaun D'Mello - Launch Range Lead, Tel: 021 0829 2217

Current Activity or Purpose published in AIP NZ

NZR401	MAHIA	13500	FT	[Activity or Purpose:] Rocket Launch activity
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Proposed Amendment - NZR401 Activity or Purpose

NZR401	MAHIA	13500	FT
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**[Activity or Purpose:] Rocket Launch and Test Activity**

**Possible effect to IFR aircraft**

The NZR401 area is partially coincident with NZA 432 (LL 6500 ft AMSL) and NZA 436 (LL is 9500 AMSL). Existing Rocket Lab agreement with Airways NZ facilitates activating the NZR401 area and the effect on IFR traffic will likely continue to be minimal.

**Possible effect to VFR aircraft**

The effect on VFR aircraft will remain as it is for current Rocket Lab launch activations and requires VRF aircraft to route well clear of the area when NZR401 is activated.

**Consultation**

Rocket Lab advise they have provided initial advisory information to stakeholders; see Rocket Lab Special Use Airspace Application attached. Rocket Lab further advise they have received no objections to the amended *Activity or Purpose*.

Prior to designating airspace, Civil Aviation Rule 71.9 requires the Director to consult with affected persons, organisations and representative groups within the aviation industry before making a designation or classification of airspace, including amending the activity or propose of currently designated airspace.

The Director invites feedback regarding the proposed NZR401 *Activity or Purpose* amendment.

This document will be sent directly to the organisations listed below. It would be appreciated if you would kindly forward the document to your members for consideration and comment.

**Aerodrome operators (charted aerodromes only)**

- Gisborne Aerodrome
- Gisborne Hospital Heliport
- Napier Aerodrome
- Wairoa Aerodrome

- Hastings Aerodrome
- Hastings Hospital Heliport

### **Operators, Organisations and User Groups**

- Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
- Airways Corporation of New Zealand
- Air New Zealand
- Balloon Association of New Zealand
- Gliding New Zealand
- New Zealand Aviation Federation
- New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association
- New Zealand Helicopter Association
- Recreational Aircraft Association of New Zealand
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
- Sport Aircraft Association New Zealand
- Sport Aviation Corp
- Hawkes Bay & East Coast Aero Club
- Central Hawkes Bay Aero Club

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This document is also available on the CAA website at the following link:  
[2023 airspace reviews | aviation.govt.nz](https://www.caa.govt.nz/2023-airspace-reviews)

### **Submissions**

This document forms part of the consultation process. Submissions are sought from any interested person, organisation or representative group.

Submissions are accepted either electronically or via mail, addressed to:

Team Coordinator  
Aviation Security and Infrastructure  
Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand  
PO Box 3555  
Wellington 6140

Email: [aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz](mailto:aeronautical.services@caa.govt.nz)

### **Reference – 23/ASD/50 Restricted Area NZR401 Amendment**

Closing date for submissions to this proposal is **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**.

For further information contact:

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