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Aviation New Zealand works to unite the aviation industry to ensure the safe and efficient use of New Zealand's airspace.

"The high-profile incident reported by an A320 over Kaiapoi on Saturday has focused attention on the UAV (drone) sector. At the moment we don't know what the object was – so it's important that we await the outcome of the CAA investigation on that.

There is currently a lot of speculation that it was a UAV, commonly known as a drone – although it's unlikely that a drone would have the technical capability to fly at that height.

Nevertheless, this incident has focused attention on the need for UAV operations to be safely and efficiently integrated into the NZ aviation system and that is a key goal of Aviation NZ and our newest Division, UAVNZ"

said Aviation NZ Chief Executive Samantha Sharif.

"UAVNZ represents NZ Commercial UAV operators and we are committed to the safe and responsible growth of the UAV industry"

"We are creating a binding Code of Conduct for our members covering the expectation that they will understand and adhere to Civil Aviation Rules, act responsibly and safely, and respect existing privacy laws. We believe our members know the Civil Aviation Rules and abide by them so it makes sense to formalise this as a code of conduct ""

said Shaun Mitchell, Chairman of UAVNZ, the national industry organisation for Unmanned Aircraft.

UAVNZ are collaborators on www.airshare.co.nz and suggest people visit airshare to learn about safely flying drones.

For further information please contact:

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About UAVNZ

UAVNZ was founded in December 2013 'to maximise the benefits from UAV technologies and develop a world-class UAV industry in New Zealand'. It does this through:

Connecting: suppliers and customers, hosting forums and networking events

Promoting: UAV companies and services, the benefits of UAV technology and safe and professional operating practices

Supporting: companies by providing templates and standards, engaging with CAA and the wider aviation industry

Following continued industry growth, UAVNZ became a Division of Aviation NZ in December 2014

For more information please visit
<http://www.aia.org.nz/Divisions/UAV+NZ.html>

Resources on UAVs:

[CAA](#)

[UAVNZ](#)

www.airshare.co.nz

Key facts about Aviation New Zealand

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry. Aviation NZ is the industry body representing the aviation sector in NZ

It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

Aviation New Zealand has over 300 members and over 2000 on its database.

Members include UAV commercial operators, agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and component/parts manufacturers.