

Rocket Lab response to FAQs

Proposed launch site on Kaitorete Spit

Where is the launch site?

The launch site is located 10km west down Bayleys Rd. The launch pad is half the size of a tennis court, and requires a small amount of supporting infrastructure.



What will Rocket Lab be launching?

Using the Electron Launch Vehicle, Rocket Lab will launch small satellites used for imaging and communications technology. These satellites provide services including optimised crop monitoring, improved weather reporting, internet from space, natural disaster prediction, up-to-date maritime data and search and rescue services.

Launch Frequency

Rocket Lab is looking to launch three test flights within the next 18 months. After that, the company is looking to begin commercial operations, working towards one flight a month.

What time of day will launches be?

Launches will occur during the day.

Have you filed for resource consent?

Yes, Rocket Lab is in the process of applying for resource consent. The time frame and requirements for this process are set by the Christchurch City Council; any questions about the consent process should be directed to the council.

What are the safety risks?

Before flight, Electron will be certified by the FAA who also licence commercial aircraft. If stringent public safety requirements cannot be met, the launch vehicle will not fly. Electron



uses a qualified safety system which is also vetted by the FAA. The vehicle will not fly over anywhere populated, travelling only over water.

What exclusion zone will be in place?

There will be an exclusion zone in operation during launch. The exclusion zone alters slightly depending on the exact trajectory of the launch, but is approximately 2km in radius around the site. In addition, the exclusion zone includes the corridor of ocean the vehicle travels over for 7.5km out to sea.

The exclusion zone is in effect on the day of launch for a few hours. It will be in effect for four hours during each test launch, of which there are three planned (a total of 12 hours in a year). Eventually, Rocket Lab will look to launch monthly from the site - at that time the exclusion time would be reduced to two hours due to a greater understanding of weather/set-up processes etc. As the site is approximately 10km down the beach, the exclusion zone will not affect the beach in front of Birdlings Flat. Residents will be notified at least two weeks in advance of a launch.

What measures are being taken to mitigate environmental impacts?

Rocket Lab is committed to the protecting biodiversity of the Spit, and is working with a team of specialised ecologists, many of whom have resided on or near the Spit, as well as local council to address any environmental concerns. Rocket Lab is committed to being good tenants of the land and plans to closely monitor any environmental impacts.

At this stage, environmental experts have suggested the impacts of the operations will be minor or less than minor. Wildlife reserves and launch sites have been proven to work well together, with Cape Canaveral showing how successful this can be. Increased international attention on the area may also lead to wider availability of resources in caring for the area.

Noise

Noise modelling suggests the noise heard in Birdlings Flat will be equivalent to a lawnmower down the street. Noise modelling indicates it is unlikely the launches will be heard in Little River.

Will the public be able to view launches?

Yes, public viewings will be possible. Rocket Lab plans to work with the Christchurch City Council to establish viewing areas.