

Media | Release

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Carbon neutral status renewed for Christchurch Airport for fourth year

Christchurch International Airport (CIAL) has had its carbon neutral status recertified by Landcare Research until 2013. Certification requirements include a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our fourth recertification shows we're maintaining our position as a leader in this field for airport companies," said CIAL Chief Executive Jim Boulton. "We make consistent efforts to achieve best practice environmental management at the airport, including environmental and energy audits, and initiatives in range of areas such as storm water discharge, solid waste disposal, energy conservation, and water and air quality."

Jim Boulton said he was particularly proud that over the last year the company had implemented a Building Management System energy conservation programme, which resulted in a 7% reduction in energy consumption from the operation of the terminal. In addition, CIAL nearly doubled the amount of waste that was recycled and not sent to landfill, and increased its use of recycled asphalt pavement in the annual Runway Maintenance Programme from the previous year.

Plans for the coming year were implementing a scheme for electric heat pumps using groundwater as an alternative to diesel boilers; using groundwater for the airconditioning needs of the new terminal, and then returning the water to its source; and assessing options for development of "green precincts" within new property developments of CIAL land.

"We are serious about building our environmental sustainability and protecting the natural resources on our land," said Jim Boulton. "Our vision is for Christchurch Airport to be the best airport in New Zealand, and taking responsibility for our greenhouse gas emissions is an integral part of that vision."

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For further comment, please contact:

Monique Oomen

Communications Manager

Christchurch International Airport Limited

Phone: 03 353 7807

Mobile: 021 450 202

Email: monique.oomen@cial.co.nz

Christchurch International Airport – New Zealand’s Tourism Gateway

Christchurch International Airport welcomed nearly 6 million passengers in 2008/2009, ranking as New Zealand’s second largest airport. The Airport occupies a unique position economically, as the South Island’s busiest and most strategic air connection to the world’s trade and tourism markets. In addition, the airport plays an important role as the South Island’s major domestic hub servicing all New Zealanders, enabling passengers to connect to a full spectrum of destinations throughout New Zealand. Christchurch International Airport is a major driver of the regional Canterbury economy, generating airport precinct related jobs for nearly 5000 people.

Christchurch International Airport is owned and operated by Christchurch International Airport Limited (CIAL). CIAL was established as a limited liability company in 1988, and ownership of CIAL is now shared by Christchurch City Holdings Limited with 75% and the New Zealand Government with 25%. The company’s vision is to be recognised as New Zealand’s leading tourist gateway.

Christchurch International Airport is a carbon neutral company and has received carboNZero certification from Landcare Research following a detailed measurement and analysis process. CIAL is the first airport company in the Southern Hemisphere to attain certified carbon neutral status and is the second carbon neutral certified airport company in the world.

Visit christchurchairport.co.nz for more information.