

# Media | Release

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## **Christchurch Airport welcomes more flights between China and New Zealand**

Christchurch Airport is welcoming the potential trebling of passenger flights between China and New Zealand.

Chief Executive Jim Boulton, currently in Indonesia as a member of the Prime Minister's trade mission, says this afternoon's announcement by Transport Minister Gerry Brownlee is great news for our travel and tourism industries.

"We are a distant market for the rest of the world, so any agreement making it easier for airlines to come to New Zealand is very encouraging", says Mr Boulton.

"Our team at Christchurch Airport is engaged in positive discussions with China Southern in China this week and currently hosting an Air China plane while His Excellency Jia Qinglin visits. We hope our current conversations will result in direct flights to Christchurch."

Mr Boulton says Chinese visitors are very keen to see the South Island's famous scenery and experience southern hospitality.

"Christchurch Airport is the gateway to the South Island and travellers arriving here tell us they love flying in over the mountains they came to see," he says.

"Many international travellers book their trip to New Zealand with the expectation of seeing our stunning scenery – mountains and lakes. They get the promise of that as they fly in to Christchurch."

Mr Boulton says the increased ASA agreements will reinforce New Zealand's free trade approach and make it easier for more South Island exporters to transport their products to the global market. "We need to grow in-bound arrivals and the import/export market for New Zealand," he said. "I'm delighted at this news and trust new agreements can be made quickly."

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For further comment, please contact:

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### **Christchurch International Airport – New Zealand’s Tourism Gateway**

Christchurch International Airport welcomes almost six million passengers a year, 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](http://christchurchairport.co.nz) for more information.