

# Media | Release

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## **CHRISTCHURCH AIRPORT TEAM WORKING ON BRINGING MORE TOURISTS SOUTH**

An aeronautical business-focussed delegation from Christchurch Airport is heading to Asia to meet heads of airlines considering flying to the South Island.

The delegation will be headed by the CEO of Christchurch International Airport, Jim Boulton, with representatives of Christchurch & Canterbury Tourism and the Canterbury Development Corporation. Mayor Bob Parker and Mayoress Joanna Nicholls-Parker will also join the group.

Jim Boulton says the purpose of the visit is to cement relationships with Christchurch, to progress tourism, trade and investment, as well as to connect with airlines which could increase current services here or begin new ones.

He says it is vital to have the Mayoral couple in the delegation, as demonstrated by recent similar trips to Asia by the mayors of Auckland and Wellington. CIAL invited the couple to work with the delegation and will cover all their costs.

"The delegation is focussed on enticing more international support, resources and investment to keep tourists coming here. We are working hard to bring more visitors here, to keep growing tourism of the undamaged South Island and to assist in the rebuild of Christchurch. New Zealand's number one industry is tourism and the South Island has breathtaking scenery and amazing attractions to offer."

The airport team will be joined in India, on the final leg of the trip, by newly appointed Airport Ambassador Sir Richard Hadlee and a later visit will include fellow ambassador rugby hero Brad Thorn.

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

Christchurch International Airport welcomes almost 6 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.