

# Media | Release

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## **Rotorua-Christchurch-Queenstown flights good news for tourism**

The decision by Air New Zealand to fly larger jets between Rotorua and Queenstown, via Christchurch, next summer is being welcomed by Christchurch International Airport (CIAL) as a positive move for New Zealand tourism.

CIAL General Manager of Aeronautical Business Development Matthew Findlay says the airline's additional capacity offered by six jet services a week over the 2012-13 summer will enhance the flow of tourists into the South Island.

"We have been getting feedback for a long time from travel wholesalers and tourism operators in Japan, China, Malaysia and Singapore that their travellers want to see the South Island," says Mr Findlay.

"The travellers are very clear on what they want to see in New Zealand and we know they come here expecting to see the southern mountains and lakes. Offering more capacity on flights from the geothermal wonders of Rotorua to the stunning South Island scenery will be very attractive to those Asian tourists.

Mr Findlay says meeting those travellers' expectations will not just benefit the South Island.

"Statistics show visitors consistently spend more time and money in the South Island, so we need to help move those visitors efficiently and in greater numbers between the two islands to realise and maximise the value of tourism to the whole country," he says.

"It is important for airlines, airports and tourism operators to work together to deliver the best experience to visitors – and this is a good example of doing just that.

Mr Findlay says Christchurch Airport is already considering ways to enhance its programme of activity in off-shore markets to support this increase in capacity and further grow the visitor economy for the benefit of the entire South Island.

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

Christchurch International Airport welcomed nearly 6 million passengers in the past 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.