

Media | Release

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Christchurch International Airport receives unique international leadership award

Christchurch International Airport has received an international accolade never offered before.

The *CAPA Special Airport Leadership Award* was made overnight by CAPA – Centre for Aviation. The citation reads “in recognition of community and industry leadership and teamwork in responding to uniquely challenging circumstances.”

In receiving the award at a ceremony in Singapore, airport Chief Executive Jim Boulton reflected on a year of many major challenges.

“It’s been an unbelievable year for us,” says Mr Boulton. “We’ve had more than 8000 earthquakes, had our airspace closed for lengthy periods due to Chilean volcanic ash clouds and the two worst snowstorms in 40 years.

“Before these events, we counted ourselves amongst the best prepared airports anywhere for disasters, but as the months have gone on, we have had more practice than we could have ever imagined. Our actions in opening so quickly after the major earthquake in February have been credited with saving 25 to 30 lives, which we are both proud of and humbled by.”

Executive Chairman of CAPA Peter Harbison says “Christchurch and the surrounding Canterbury region have suffered extreme hardship over the past year, experiencing two major earthquakes and a succession of subsequent aftershocks. In the aftermath of the February 2011 earthquake, Christchurch Airport and its dedicated team played a vital role in helping restore normalcy to the community, even while its staff were themselves suffering personally. CAPA has the deepest admiration for their efforts over recent months and wish them well in the months ahead.”

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Please refer to <http://centreforaviation.com>>CAPA

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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 for more information.