

Media | Release

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Christchurch Airport responds to Singapore Airline flight schedule plans

Christchurch International Airport (CIAL) Chief Executive Jim Boulton has said he understands the reasoning behind Singapore Airlines' decision not to add extra flights to and from Christchurch during the winter season, as originally planned.

"The earthquake has had an effect on inbound tourist traffic and we fully understand that the airline doesn't see this as the right time to expand services," said Jim Boulton. "We are pleased that the present services will be maintained, as the South Island is still very much open for business and Christchurch Airport is the major hub for international travellers to the South Island."

Christchurch Airport is currently working with the tourism industry to develop a new strategy to ensure tourists continue to fly in and out of Christchurch Airport to travel in the South Island. The strategy includes having a "bed bank" of available rooms in Christchurch, as well as transporting travellers to other centres to be accommodated.

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For further comment, please contact:

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Christchurch International Airport – New Zealand’s Tourism Gateway

Christchurch International Airport welcomed 6 million passengers in 2009/2010, 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.