

Media | Release

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Mixed feelings follow Jetstar announcement

There are mixed feelings at Christchurch Airport today after Jetstar's announcement of increased domestic services from mid-November.

Chief Executive Jim Boulton says the airline's growth is welcome news, as is the announcement of increased services on the main trunk routes.

"This will mean an extra 131,000 additional seats into Christchurch each year, which is, of course, good news," says Mr Boulton.

"We are New Zealand's second largest airport, so the extra services between Christchurch and Wellington are sure to be well received, as will the timings of the services between Christchurch and Auckland.

"However we are surprised and disappointed to see five weekly services between Christchurch and Queenstown suspended.

"Christchurch Airport is acknowledged as the gateway to the South Island, with five times the volume of any other airport in the South Island. That volume, of both people and freight, is sure to increase as the city's rebuild changes up a gear, so we are surprised Jetstar is not positioning to take advantage of that.

"We are working hard to bring the world south, talking to international airlines interested in flying here. The Government's recent relaxing of Air Service Agreements effectively mean Open Skies over Christchurch for the next four years, which is attractive to airlines."

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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 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. 85% of international visitors to the South Island are welcomed and farewelled at Christchurch Airport.

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.