

Media | Release

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CHRISTCHURCH AIRPORT TO WELCOME THE ROYAL BABY

Is it a boy? Is it a girl?

Like the rest of the world, the team at Christchurch Airport is waiting to see whether the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge welcome a baby daughter or son.

So they're hedging their bets.

From tonight, night-time visitors to Christchurch Airport will see the terminal alternately displaying pink and blue lighting - until we get word of the baby's birth.

Then the terminal will be baby blue or pink for the rest of the week.

The Airways control tower will join the party, also colouring up from tonight.

Christchurch Airport CEO Jim Boulton says the ability of the airport terminal to change colour is very popular with visitors.

"On most nights the lighting rotates through the colours of the rainbow and we often see visitors waiting to take a photo of the terminal in their favourite colour," says Mr Boulton.

"We have the ability to celebrate all sorts of significant events in this way - including red for Chinese New Year, pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness or blue for Men's Health Awareness. We have been known to go red and black to support the Crusaders and black and white for the All Blacks too.

"At the moment, millions of people all over the world are waiting to see whether the royal baby is a prince or princess, so we were very happy to work with Monarchy New Zealand to be lit up when the future king or queen is born."

Mr Boulton says Prince William is very much in the hearts of Cantabrians. The Prince visited Christchurch on behalf of the Queen in 2011 to attend the National Memorial Service, following the devastating earthquakes that hit the area.

The lighting colour scheme will herald the baby's arrival to thousands of people, because every day the equivalent of the entire population of Timaru passes through the airport.

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For further comment, please contact:

Yvonne Densem

Manager Communications

Christchurch International Airport Limited

Phone: 03 353 7807

Mobile: 021 450 202

Christchurch Airport – bringing the world South

Christchurch Airport welcomes almost 5.5 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 6000 people.

Government policy currently offers "Open Skies" over Christchurch until 2017, giving favourable consideration to airlines offering new services to and from the city.

Christchurch 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 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.