

## Media | Release

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### **MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR AIRCRAFT RE-FIT UNVEILED IN CHRISTCHURCH**

The long-term relationship between Christchurch Airport and Singapore Airlines was highlighted today with a multi-million dollar re-fit of aircraft flying direct between Christchurch and Singapore.

Upgraded seats and cabin interiors form part of a NZ\$77.4 million investment programme offering South Island travellers additional space and comfort on the daily flights.

Christchurch Airport Chief Executive Malcolm Johns says the new product is outstanding and yet another reason South Island travellers choose to fly to Singapore direct out of Christchurch.

"Singapore Airlines has been a valued partner of Christchurch Airport for 28 years, providing travellers from Wellington south with award winning passenger services and air freight capacity from this airport," says Mr Johns.

"The airline's commitment to the airport is underscored by increasing capacity on the route since before the 2011 earthquake by what is now an astounding 21.5%.

"This recent summer has also seen Singapore Airlines provide 10 additional supplemental services over our summer - the highest volume of additional seats ever seen from the airline. 18 new services have already been announced for next summer, which we hope may yet see more services to meet the 2014/15 summer season."

The new cabin product unveiled at Christchurch Airport today is the airline's best-in-class award winning product, with airline executives telling invited guests Christchurch's new integrated terminal makes the combined offering a superior choice over others. The distance between Christchurch and Singapore is the shortest from New Zealand, with the single integrated terminal reducing the elapsed travel time.

Mr Johns says the daily flight offers southern travellers many international connections. "Singapore Airlines' long haul service contributes \$144m to the economy and provides connectivity beyond Singapore, with connecting services to and from Europe, Asia and Africa," he says.

"When you add all these factors together, it's not difficult to see why Singapore Airlines carries hundreds of thousands of visitors and South Islanders on the existing service every year, a service which has been daily since 2012 – and which we are committed to for decades to come."

The value of the partnership is also highlighted by Singapore Airline's visiting regional vice president Subhas Menon, who said today "We've been flying here for almost three decades and we'll be flying here for the next three decades."

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### **Christchurch Airport – bringing the world South**

Christchurch Airport welcomed 5.5 million passengers last 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. 81% 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](http://christchurchairport.co.nz) for more information.