

Media | Release

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Christchurch Airport clears the site for Spitfire Square

Construction of a retail precinct at Christchurch Airport comes a step closer this month with the demolition of a building on Memorial Avenue.

The building which used to house Maui Campervans is being demolished to clear the site where Spitfire Square will be developed.

Christchurch Airport Chief Commercial Officer Blair Forgie says the development is now underway, with strong tenant interest for a spot in the centre.

“Spitfire Square will offer a variety of convenience retail and services for airport customers and people who work at the airport. Current interest includes a supermarket, bank, café, restaurant, pharmacy, bookshop and florist, to name just a few,” says Mr Forgie.

“We are in discussions with a variety of tenants, all of whom see the value of being close to an international airport and the millions of visitors who come through – as well as the thousands of employees who work on and around the airport every day.”

Evan Harris from Colliers International is managing the leasing of the development and says interest in some categories has been so strong, particularly food, that it is disappointing to turn some people down.

“In one food category there were eight operators keen to take the space. The demand has certainly shown that a well-planned development in a key location, with such high profile as Memorial Avenue, is always going to create strong tenant interest” says Mr Harris.

Countdown’s General Manager for Property, Adrian Walker, says the company is looking forward to being part of the development as anchor tenant and having its Countdown supermarket create up to 100 new jobs.

“We’re delighted to be part of the airport’s plans and to be adding to our presence in Canterbury. Christchurch is a city we’re committed to employing and investing in and we’re

looking forward to putting a local team together ahead of the opening," he says.

The supermarket is expected to be approximately 2400sqm and to open mid-2015. Recruitment information will be advertised on the Countdown website around 12 weeks before opening.

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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 welcomed 5.6 million 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. 82% 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.