

Hobart–Auckland season begins with three-year growth plan

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Non-stop flights between Hobart and Auckland take off today, with more flights scheduled this season and a three-year commitment to continue growing the service and strengthen Hobart Airport's role as Tasmania's major gateway.

More flights are scheduled this summer, with Hobart Airport and the State Government, through the Aviation Attraction Fund backing planned growth over the next three years, including a longer operating season and increased capacity.

Hobart Airport Chief Operating Officer Matt Cocker said Air New Zealand's first flight of the season would kick off what is expected to be a record-breaking summer for Hobart Airport, with more flights across its network and continued investment in Tasmania's international connections.

"The non-stop Hobart to Auckland service gives Tasmanians a direct link to New Zealand and convenient connections to destinations across North America and beyond," Mr Cocker said.

"Importantly, this isn't just about the service returning for another summer. We have a three-year plan to grow the route, building on the demand we've already seen and giving Tasmanians and visitors greater confidence in the connection.

"We're working towards extending the operating season and increasing both capacity and frequency, strengthening Tasmania's access to a key international market.

"By the 2028/29 season, Air New Zealand, with the support of the Tasmanian Governments Aviation Attraction Fund, will have more flights and seats in an extended season than when the service operated year-round."

New Zealand is an important market for Tasmania's visitor economy, with 65 per cent of passengers on the service during the 2025–26 season being New Zealand residents, followed by 12 per cent from the United States.

Air New Zealand GM Short Haul and Domestic Lucy Hall says it was exciting to see the airline's direct Hobart to Auckland service take off again today.

"We love connecting New Zealand and Tasmania, and it's fantastic to be back in Hobart for another season.

"We know how much our customers value the convenience of flying direct, so this year we're extending the season and adding more seats, including a fourth weekly flight during the peak travel period. That means 28 per cent more capacity than the same period last year, giving customers even more choice when planning their next trip," Hall says.

Mr Cocker said the growth of the Auckland service was being supported by continued investment in Hobart Airport's capability, with passengers on today's flight the first to use Hobart Airport's new bigger purpose-built international screening and border processing facility, including Australian Border Force passport control.

"As we grow this service, we're also investing in the infrastructure needed to make international travel easier through Tasmania's major international gateway," Mr Cocker said.

"Passengers travelling to Auckland or connecting onwards to destinations such as Los Angeles, New York and Vancouver will be able to complete outbound border processing in Hobart and check their bags through to their final destination, and simply transit in Auckland, avoiding queues in other ports" he said.

"It's another important step in making international travel more convenient and supporting the growth of our international connections.



“The Auckland service is part of a strong summer schedule at Hobart Airport, which also includes Jetstar’s seasonal Newcastle flights and Qantas’ move to daily Brisbane services,” he said.

Hobart Airport is expecting over a million seats this summer, growing year on year.

“More flights, more seats and stronger connections mean more choice for Tasmanians and more opportunities for visitors to come to our state,” he said.

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