



**Newcastle™  
Airport**

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## Media release

### International flights return as second Auckland season takes off

Thursday 21 November 2019

Newcastle Airport and the region it services celebrated the return of international flights today, with the official start of a new partnership with Virgin Australia to offer seasonal direct flights between Newcastle and Auckland.

Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock says the partnership with Virgin Australia reflects the strength of support and overall results from last year's inaugural season:

"On the back of last year's success, we're very excited to welcome the first flight from Auckland for the 2019/2020 season.

"Last year's season delivered an estimated \$5.4million of economic benefit to our region and with even more visitors expected this year we anticipate this continuing to grow.

"Residents of the Hunter, Central Coast and Northern NSW deserve the international connectivity this route brings as well as the opportunity to promote our region to new international visitors. This route cements our role as NSW's second international Airport and is why we believe an upgraded airport with ability to take wide-body aircraft is essential to deliver on our promise to be the Airport the region deserves," Dr Cock said.

Virgin Australia General Manager, Network and Revenue Management, Russell Shaw said:

"We're delighted to be launching our seasonal Newcastle – Auckland flights again, providing Novocastrians with the quickest and most convenient journey over to Auckland for the second year.

"From today, 12,500 travellers will be able to fly directly between the cities, driving tourism growth and opportunities for both regions," Mr Shaw said.

The 13-week seasonal service will operate up to three return services per week during the peak holiday period from 21 November 2019 to 16 February 2020, with potential to grow over subsequent years.

**Ends.**

#### Further information

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#### Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport [www.newcastleairport.com.au/](http://www.newcastleairport.com.au/)

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/ntlairport/](https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/)

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: [www.twitter.com/NTLairport](https://www.twitter.com/NTLairport)

Newcastle Airport Master Plan <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/corporate/about/masterplan>

Astra Aerolab [www.astraerolab.com.au/](http://www.astraerolab.com.au/)

#### About Newcastle Airport

- > Recipient of the President's Award at the 2019 Hunter Business Awards, with CEO Dr Peter Cock also awarded 'Business Leader of the Year'.
- > Named 'Major Airport of the Year' at the 2018 Australian Airports Association Industry Awards.
- > Newcastle Airport is the second international gateway into New South Wales and the second busiest airport in the state.
- > Serviced by Jetstar, Virgin Australia, QantasLink, Regional Express, and FlyPelican to eight direct domestic destinations and onward to more than 65 worldwide destinations.
- > Newcastle Airport is the gateway to Australia's largest regional economy, with more than \$43 billion annual output and 48,500 businesses.
- > Newcastle Airport contributes more than \$1.16 billion to the state's economy each year, including \$300 million direct to the visitor economy which supports over 5,700 full-time employees across tourism and the Airport cluster.
- > Newcastle Airport Pty Ltd is jointly owned by City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council and is governed by an independent, skills-based Board of Directors.
- > FY18/19 passenger results saw Newcastle Airport break its all-time FY record with 1,277,473 travellers passing through the terminal.
- > In December 2018, Newcastle Airport welcomed its 18 millionth passenger through the terminal since 1995.
- > On 22 March 2018, Newcastle Airport released its 60-year Master Plan, which includes a 20-year blueprint for growth, projections and business development of the Airport.