

Media release

Newcastle Airport and Virgin Australia announce 3 years of direct International flights to Auckland

Tuesday, 23 July, 2019

Newcastle Airport and Virgin Australia have today announced a three-year partnership to continue flying direct services between the Hunter and Auckland.

“In what is a great sign of confidence in the region, we have formalised an agreement to continue connecting these two harbour cities for at least the next three years,” said Newcastle Airport CEO, Dr Peter Cock.

“On the back of the successes of last year, we are thrilled to provide some clarity and certainty around the longevity of these flights, which cement us as an international airport.

“The first season was a real success, delivering an estimated \$5.4 million in economic benefit into our region. Importantly, 38% of holiday travellers were visiting the Hunter for the first time, which indicates this direct service stimulated new demand.

“The service also provided thousands of locals with the opportunity to visit Auckland for the first time. In fact, 30% of Australian leisure travellers made their inaugural visit to the New Zealand city via this direct service.”

“With our international capability now confirmed, we’re strengthening the region’s reputation as a key destination for both domestic and international travels and a second international gateway into NSW. It’s thanks to the ongoing support from our shareholders as well as state and federal government stakeholders that we’re well placed to deliver our vision to be the Airport the region deserves,” Dr Cock added.

Virgin Australia will operate 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.

Virgin Australia General Manager, Network and Revenue Management, Russell Shaw said that the airline was pleased to announce a return of the seasonal service after its popularity last year.

“Virgin Australia is proud to be launching the seasonal service between Newcastle and Auckland for the second year in a row, connecting two fantastic cities and providing the regional New South Wales community with more seamless international travel connections during the busy holiday period,” Mr Shaw said.

Flights between Newcastle and Auckland are on sale now at www.virginaustralia.com, with launch sale fares starting from AUD\$179 one-way, including checked baggage.[1]

Virgin Australia Newcastle to Auckland Schedule (effective 21 November) [2]

[1] On sale until 11:59pm AEST 26 July 2019 unless sold out prior. Fares departing Newcastle to Auckland are for travel from 21 November 2019 until 17 December 2019, and from 09 January 2020 until 16 February 2020. Seats are limited and may

not be available at peak times or on all flights. Price is based on a one way Getaway fare booked on the internet. Price may vary until ticketed. A checked baggage allowance is included in your fare. Add \$40 for bookings made on the phone or at the airport. Return fare may vary with the addition of local taxes and charges or due to currency fluctuations. All payments made by debit/credit card are subject to a payment surcharge. Changes and cancellations incur a fee and any applicable fare difference. See Virgin Australia's international Fees page for details. Name changes are not permitted. Refunds are not permitted under your fare rules but you may be entitled to a refund under the Australian Consumer Law in certain circumstances. Check your fare rules for more information. Some flights may be operated by a partner airline. Different baggage allowances and conditions may apply to these flights. Full terms and conditions at www.virginaustralia.com.

[2] Flights are subject to regulatory approvals.

Route	Flight Number	Dep/Arr	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
AKL-NTL	VA198	1710/1845		✈		✈			✈
NTL-AKL	VA199	1930/0025		✈		✈			✈

Notes for the Editor:

Newcastle Airport <https://www.newcastleairport.com.au/>

Newcastle Airport Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ntlairport/>

Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

Virgin Australia: <https://www.virginaustralia.com/>

Virgin Australia Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/virginaustralia>

Virgin Australia Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/virginaustralia>

About Virgin Australia flights servicing Newcastle and Auckland effective as of 21 November 2019:

- > 13-week seasonal service
- > 3 flights per week: Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
- > First flight: Thursday 21 November 2019
- > Last flight: Sunday 16 February 2020
- > Flight times:
 - Depart AKL 5.10 pm / Arrive NTL 6.45 pm
 - Depart NTL 7.30 pm / Arrive AKL 12.25 am
- > Flight duration: 3 hours and 35 minutes
- > Aircraft type: Boeing B737-800 (seating 176 passengers)
- > Total number of seats during the season: 13,376

- > Regional economic benefit: estimated net benefit of up to \$6 million, \$3.1million in direct tourism spend, additional 58 jobs created in local community to support service

Ends.

Further information

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www.newcastleairport.com.au

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Newcastle Airport Twitter Feed: <https://twitter.com/NTLairport>

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

Astra Aerolab <https://astraerolab.com.au/>