

# MEDIA RELEASE



18 July 2018

## International services to Newcastle a win for regional tourism

Newcastle Airport's first international services will create new tourism opportunities for the region, giving New Zealanders direct access to the Greater Hunter Region.

Australian Airports Association (AAA) Chief Executive Officer Caroline Wilkie congratulated Newcastle Airport on the announcement that Virgin Australia will commence seasonal services from Auckland in November.

"The team at Newcastle Airport has worked hard to make international services to the region possible and this is a fantastic outcome for the local community," Ms Wilkie said.

"Direct international services will further promote the local tourism market and give more people the chance to experience the Hunter region's unique offering.

"This is a great example of Australian airports harnessing the appeal of their regions to attract new services and promote the dispersal of international tourists further across the country."

The Virgin Australia – Newcastle service will operate three return services per week from 22 November 2018 to 17 February 2019.

Newcastle Airport's upgraded terminal will support the new service, which will add 13,000 additional seats during the holiday period.

Ms Wilkie said the team's deep understanding of the region's tourism potential had supported its success in securing the service.

"Newcastle Airport has worked closely with its stakeholders to demonstrate the value of direct international services to the region," Ms Wilkie said.

"It is great to see the airport and Virgin Australia working together to confirm today's exciting news."

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