

Media Release

Sweet As Reunion for Hobart to Auckland

Sunday September 22, 2024

Direct flights from Hobart to Auckland will make an exciting return next month as part of the *Sweet As Reunion* between Tasmania and New Zealand.

The popular route first started in April 2021 and was paused by Air New Zealand in April this year to allow for fleet maintenance works.

Hobart Airport CEO Norris Carter said the Hobart to Auckland flights with Air New Zealand would start on October 27.

“Tickets are available right now to fly from Hobart to Auckland as part of the *Sweet As Reunion*,” Mr Carter said.

“Every week we’ll have three flights from Hobart to Auckland, on a Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. It really is a *Sweet As Reunion* for thousands of travellers wanting to see everything Tassie has to offer.

“It means we’ll have an additional 24,000 international seats inbound and outbound over the coming five months. We know that around 10 per cent of passengers flying into Hobart from Auckland during the previous peak were North American visitors, who can fly to Australia but avoid the huge queues of the mainland hubs.

“This is great news for the Tasmanian tourism industry, with more travellers staying in our hotels, visiting our attractions, and enjoying our restaurants and cafes. For Tasmanian travellers, it not only means they have a chance to check out New Zealand, but they have a one stop option to jet across the world to destinations including the USA and Pacific Islands.

“As part of the *Sweet As Reunion*, we’re asking Tasmanians what iconic piece of Tassie they’d like to send someone in Auckland. We’ve had some great suggestions from a Tassie Devil to Cadbury chocolate, Mona art, and even a JackJumper player. I encourage Tasmanians to jump on our socials and give us their suggestions too.

“The return of the Hobart to Auckland flights adds to the exciting developments at Hobart Airport; our \$130 million runway upgrade, \$200 million terminal redevelopment and investment of over \$20 million in the carparks, forecourt and road network. This is all part of our plan to build a better Hobart Airport that delivers more space, more choice and more jobs for Tasmanians.”

Premier and Minister for Tourism Jeremy Rockliff said: “The return of direct flights from Hobart to Auckland is fantastic news for Tasmania and supports our plan to grow our visitor economy. The return of the Auckland to Hobart service is a strong sign of confidence in Tasmania’s tourism and hospitality sector. The direct flights will provide fast and easy access to Tasmania for a crucial visitor market that injected \$35 million into our economy in the year ending March 2024. The service will provide an additional 24,000 international seats through the five-month summer season, boosting visitor numbers and helping to keep our economy strong.”

Tourism Industry Council Tasmania CEO Amy Hills said:

“The return of the direct Auckland flight to Hobart comes as a welcome boost to Tasmania’s visitor economy



and tourism operators in the lead up to summer. As international visitation continues to return following COVID, travellers coming from New Zealand and beyond are vital in supporting our industry and continuing to cement Hobart Airport as our international aviation gateway, boosting our efforts to attract another direct international service in the near future."