



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 6 September, 2007

GOLD COAST HITS THE AIR NEW ZEALAND RADAR

Air New Zealand is set to be a frequent tail at Gold Coast Airport with the airline today announcing it will absorb all services operated by its subsidiary airline, Freedom Air, from March 30, 2008.

Gold Coast Airport Chief Operating Officer Paul Donovan said the new service would connect the Gold Coast to the rest of the world through the Star Alliance network with significant benefits for passengers flying through Gold Coast Airport.

“Being a star alliance port means passengers can check in at our airport and through connect to any other port, such as LA or Heathrow, serviced by a Star Alliance airline,” Mr Donovan said.

“Conversely, someone traveling from London to the Gold Coast can check their bags at Heathrow and not have to worry about them again until they arrive at our airport.

“Air New Zealand also offers more leg room and in-flight entertainment for added comfort.

“We look forward to working with Air New Zealand and the tourism industry on both sides of the Tasman to ensure the services are a continued success.”

Mr Donovan said the move also marked the end of an era.

“The Gold Coast was the first international port for Freedom Air when it started flying in 1996 with just two connections a week to Hamilton and one to Palmerston North on New Zealand’s north island,” Mr Donovan said.

“Today, we have 17 flights between the Gold Coast and New Zealand each week with Jetstar and Pacific Blue also providing regular services.”

Freedom Air currently operate 13 trans Tasman flights to and from Gold Coast Airport each week with direct flights to Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch.

Jetstar operates two return flights between the Gold Coast and Christchurch per week.
Pacific Blue provides two return flights from the Gold Coast to Auckland per week.

Gold Coast Airport is a fully international port with permanent Customs, Quarantine and Immigration services.

For more information visit www.GoldCoastAirport.com.au

Gold Coast Airport is proudly owned and operated by Gold Coast Airport Pty Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Queensland Airports Limited.

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EDITORS NOTE: Unfortunately Paul Donovan will only be available for telephone interviews this afternoon or tomorrow morning from 10am.

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