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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton Airport ‘an absolute gem’

Waikato’s economy is the biggest winner from today’s announcement that international flights will resume from Hamilton Airport in 2025, says Waikato Chamber of Commerce CEO Don Good.

Jetstar has announced it will offer three return flights per week between Hamilton and the Gold Coast and four return flights per week between Hamilton and Sydney.

The new flights will begin in June 2025.

Good said the trans-Tasman flights were a big win for the region that was already outperforming many other parts of the country. The expected \$45 million economic boost was welcome news for Waikato businesspeople, as well as travellers, he said.

“Of course, Waikato hospitality and tourism venues are going to put out the welcome mat for 65,000 more inbound tourists, all wanting to spend on attractions, food and accommodation.

“Given the development of the Mistry Centre 5-star Pullman Hotel in Ward St next to Centreplace and the recently announced Double Tree by Hilton Hotel being built in just off the Expressway in Cambridge, these new flight connections will land at the right time for those investments.

“But it’s also about our export businesses, so I’m very pleasantly surprised to hear about the Sydney flights. It means you can fly direct to Sydney, do business in a market of 5 million plus consumers, head up to the Gold Coast for a few days break, and then head home. That commitment to Sydney is a big plus.

“Time is money and by flying out of Hamilton, you’ll be halfway across the Tasman before you even get to Auckland Airport.”

Good said the commitment from Jetstar would have been well researched and reinforces the Waikato’s position as New Zealand’s logistics capital.

“I expect Mark Morgan and the WRAL team put up a very strong economic case and worked pretty hard to get this across the line. They would have reinforced the fact that the Waikato has a very good economic opportunity story to sell.

“The airport is extremely well positioned as a gateway to New Zealand. We have 2.6 million people living within the Golden Triangle and the Waikato Expressway connects us easily and quickly.”

He said today's announcement reinforced the airport's strong leadership and governance.

"From the region's point of view, the airport is an absolute gem in the Waikato logistics crown, and councils should just let it get on with doing what it does well. This announcement is great news for the Waikato."

Ends

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