

Linking the Long White Cloud

Ensuring New Zealand's small and isolated communities do not lose vital air transport links

Communities up and down our country rely on their airports to ensure access to healthcare, education and economic growth opportunities.

They are also crucial parts of our disaster response infrastructure.

Yet our country's smallest airports are facing an unprecedented funding crisis. The level of investment required to maintain minimum safe standards simply cannot be met from commercial revenues.

Our isolated communities need government help to ensure the survival of our airports and our national aviation connections.



Airports face funding discrimination

All airports face high costs to maintain essential infrastructure like runways, lighting and navigation aids to safe standards.

Yet smaller airports cannot recoup these costs from their low traffic volumes.

Unlike other developed countries, there is no government programme to ensure essential air services to small communities. Airport infrastructure funding is inadequate and unfair.

In contrast, billions of dollars are allocated each year to New Zealand's road and rail network.

The impact on New Zealand

Our country relies on the national air network as much as the road or rail networks.

Without a solution to the funding crisis, airports in isolated communities could face closure.

This means poorer natural disaster response as runways will not be maintained.

Airline services to smaller communities will continue to shrink.

Isolation for rural and Māori communities across the country will increase.



12 airports in NZ need government support

Airports need an annual passenger throughput of 200,000 to meet their operating costs.

In New Zealand there are 12 airports that do not fit a commercial model, and depend on a ratepayer subsidy to operate.

We have classed these as non-commercial airports.



These 12 small airports serve isolated towns and rural populations.

The communities need access to larger centres and the facilities such as hospitals, they provide.

It is inequitable to leave small numbers of ratepayers in these 12 communities to shoulder the responsibility of necessary airport upkeep.

Chatham Is.

Why New Zealand needs viable regional airports



DISASTER RESPONSE

Runways are needed for airlift after emergencies



SOCIAL COHESION

Family and social bonds rely on regular air links



BIG CITY ACCESS

Local businesses need to meet customers



JOIN THE WORLD

NZ regional towns need connections to the world



JOB CREATION

Airports create employment and enable tourism

NZ IS OUT OF STEP

Every other OECD country funds regional air transport. Social cohesion, access to government and medical services are the most frequently cited rationales for market intervention. In this regard, New Zealand is outside of international norms.

EUROPE

Public Service Offering scheme offers subsidised routes for remote air services in the EU



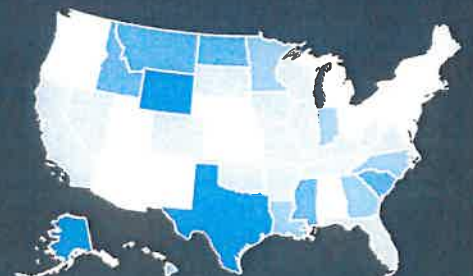
AUSTRALIA

Patchwork of federal and state funds to maintain airports and subsidise most remote air links



USA

Essential Air Service scheme funds flights to over 150 isolated communities across the United States



Data shows density of government-supported air links by jurisdiction.

The FlyLocal NZ campaign: A fund for local airports



A TWO PART FUND
TO PROTECT
ESSENTIAL AIR LINKS
IN NEW ZEALAND



AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Funding required to maintain a minimum set of aerodrome infrastructure. This includes the lighting, navigational and runway assets required to accept scheduled and 24-hour aeromedical flights

AIR SERVICES

Underwriting required to maintain regular passenger air transport services to smaller regional towns. Criteria established and routes identified to meet national policy goals.

This parliamentary election year, we are calling on all parties to endorse our plan to establish a fund to ensure the continued viability of our local airports.

This fund would require no new money, just a re-allocation of existing spending and existing revenues collected by the Crown.



Help us guarantee the future



You can help protect New Zealand's local airports for future generations by joining our campaign.

Visit flylocal.nz for details on how to write to your MP, support us in your local media or become a corporate supporter.

For more information contact
Kevin Ward
Chief Executive
New Zealand Airports Association
kevin.ward@nzairports.co.nz



NZ AIRPORTS
ASSOCIATION

Prepared by



Message Shapers