DUNEDIN AIRPORT STRENGTHENS SOUTHERN CONNECTION IN YEAR OF MAJOR INVESTMENT

For immediate release

Dunedin, Friday 2 October 2026 – Dunedin Airport's 2026 Annual Report records a year of stronger international connections, a transformed terminal and major investment in critical infrastructure, alongside national recognition as Medium Airport of the Year.

For the year ended 30 June 2026, the airport welcomed 876,699 passengers, up 2.7%, as Jetstar's Dunedin–Gold Coast service completed its first full financial year. Operating revenue increased 4.3% to $24.7 million.

CEO Daniel De Bono says the year's achievements reflect the airport team's focus on delivering for passengers and the wider lower South.

"The Gold Coast service has given people in our region a direct connection to Australia and opened up more opportunities for visitors to discover the lower South. At the same time, we've created terminal spaces that make travelling through Dunedin more comfortable and reflect the stories and character of this place," says Mr De Bono.

"Being named Medium Airport of the Year was a proud moment for our team and our airport community. It recognises the care and effort that go into keeping the airport running every day, as well as the work being done to prepare it for the future."

A snapshot of highlights from the year were:

- **Medium Airport of the Year.** Dunedin Airport won the title at the 2025 New Zealand Airports Association awards, recognising the progress delivered across the business.
- **A full year of direct Gold Coast flights.** Jetstar's trans-Tasman service carried close to 50,000 passengers, strengthening connections for local travellers and Australian visitors.

- **Completion of the Terminal Enhancement Project.** New Level 1 dining, retail and seating spaces created a more welcoming passenger environment. Fuel to Fly and Provenance expanded the food offering, and the integration of Kāi Tahu cultural narratives are told through striking new artworks.
- **Major runway renewal without flight delays.** The runway's central keel was rebuilt across 32 night shifts over approximately seven weeks. Delivered by Fulton Hogan, the first stage of the renewal programme was completed with no delayed flights and safety maintained for all those involved.
- **Progress on sustainability.** The airport achieved Level 4 Airport Carbon Accreditation and commissioned its first major rooftop solar installation in December 2025, reducing grid electricity use during its first months of operation.
- **Recognition for regional collaboration.** The Southern Airport Alliance and Southern Way won the New Zealand Airports Association Commercial Initiative of the Year award for the One Trip To See It All campaign, promoting travel across Otago and Southland.

Board Chair Chris Hopkins says the airport continued to invest in its long-term resilience while managing a demanding financial environment.

"The airport is essential infrastructure for the lower South. Our responsibility is to maintain reliable connections, ensure our infrastructure is fit for purpose and make sound investment decisions so it can continue to serve the region for decades to come," says Mr Hopkins.

"This year's progress reflects strong partnerships with our airlines, mana whenua, commercial partners and regional communities. Those relationships are central to the airport's future."

Non-passenger service revenue grew 13.5% to $7.4 million, supporting commercial diversification. The operating surplus before tax was $2.3 million, down 62.2% on the previous year. The result included higher depreciation and finance costs, alongside a $1.7 million non cash accounting write-off of pavement removed during the runway works.

Looking ahead, the airport's priorities include supporting its airline network, progressing runway and airfield renewals, further improving the passenger experience and continuing to reduce operational emissions.

The full Annual Report can be found here.

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