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Newsroom

Jetstar to bring low fares to regional New Zealand

- Jetstar services to regional New Zealand starting in December this year.
- New flights will bring low fares competition to monopoly domestic routes around the country.
- A network of at least four initial regional destinations operated by Q300 turbo-prop aircraft.

Jetstar has today announced plans to start flying to regional destinations in New Zealand from later this year, bringing much-needed competition and more affordable fares to travellers outside the country's main centres.

The new services will be operated by a fleet of five 50-seat Bombardier Q300 turbo-prop aircraft and are expected to create at least 100 new jobs for pilots, cabin crew, and ground crew.

The services are expected to operate to at least four regional destinations initially, with some of those under consideration being Hamilton, Rotorua, New Plymouth, Napier and Palmerston North in the North Island and Nelson and Invercargill in the South Island. These will connect with one or more of Jetstar's current domestic destinations.

Regional fares will go on sale in September with first flights taking off in early December, in time for the busy summer and holiday season.

Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce, who joined New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key to make the announcement in Auckland, said the time was right to bring Jetstar's low fares to the regions.

"When Jetstar brought low fares to New Zealand's key routes six years ago it completely transformed the market in terms of value and now we'll do the same for regional New Zealand.

"The community has been calling out for more choice and lower fares on regional routes in New Zealand because there's a lack of competition.

"We're answering that call by launching Jetstar flights to regional New Zealand, making air travel more affordable for people who live outside the main centres and boosting tourism and the economies of these areas.

"These new regional destinations will connect with the broader Qantas Group network, including both Qantas and Jetstar flying across the Tasman, to make these parts of New Zealand more accessible to international travellers," added Mr Joyce.

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We have made travel more affordable for New Zealanders flying between the main centres. Now we're bringing our passion for affordable travel to thousands of new Jetstar travellers in the regions, whether they are flying for leisure or business

Jetstar Group Chief Executive Officer Jayne Hrdlicka

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Jetstar Group CEO, Jayne Hrdlicka, said the local airline's leadership in domestic on-time performance over the past two years, combined with improved customer satisfaction, had placed it in a positive position for regional expansion.

"Jetstar wants to bring real competition and stimulate regional passenger growth," Ms Hrdlicka said.

"When we first started operations in New Zealand, domestic fares across the country dropped by around 40 per cent, and we expect fares will drop considerably on the regional routes where we'll operate.

"We have made travel more affordable for New Zealanders flying between the main centres. Now we're bringing our passion for affordable travel to thousands of new Jetstar travellers in the regions, whether they are flying for leisure or business," she added.

Jetstar executives will be visiting a number of regional centres over the next two months to meet with airports, local government, and business, travel and tourism representatives to determine the first regional destinations.

Jetstar, which is fully owned by Qantas, launched Trans-Tasman flights in 2005 and established domestic operations in New Zealand in June 2009. The low cost carrier's fleet of nine Airbus A320 aircraft operate up to up to 240 domestic and 100 international flights a week.

Jetstar has crew bases in Auckland and Christchurch and provides employment for over 400 pilots, cabin crew, engineers and ground crew around the country.

The Jetstar-branded regional services, which will be marketed and managed by Jetstar, will be operated by QantasLink. Under this arrangement, Qantas-owned Eastern Australia Airlines, which has operated Q300 aircraft in Australia for QantasLink for over 15 years, will manage the aircraft operations.

Services are subject to regulatory approval.

Key points of today's announcement:

- Jetstar plans to start regional services in New Zealand using 50-seat Bombardier Q300 aircraft, previously used in Australia by QantasLink.
- The network and frequency will be announced in September following a series of visits to regional centres. Fares will go on sale at the same time with flights starting in December 2015.
- New destinations under consideration include Hamilton, Rotorua, New Plymouth, Napier and Palmerston North in the North Island and Nelson and Invercargill in the South Island, in addition to the airline's current network of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown.
- Jetstar launched trans-Tasman services in 2005 and domestic New Zealand services in June 2009.
- In 2014 Jetstar was the country's most on-time domestic airline.



About Jetstar

About Jetstar Group

Jetstar first took to the skies in 2004 and has since flown more than 350 million customers across an extensive international and domestic network. The Jetstar Group is made up of Jetstar Airways (subsidiary of the Qantas Group) in Australia and New Zealand, Jetstar Asia in Singapore, and Jetstar Japan in Japan. A leading low-fares airline, Jetstar is committed to offering everyday low fares to enable more people to fly to more places, more often. As one of Asia Pacific's fastest-growing airline brands, Jetstar was voted Best Low-Cost Airline in Asia Pacific in 2021 and was recognized for its excellent flight safety records and services when listed on the "2022 World's Top 10 LCC" released by Airline Ratings.

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