



Report 09.397
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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy
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Long Haul Project

1. Purpose

To update the Committee on activities associated with bringing long haul flights to the Wellington region.

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

Bringing direct long-haul flights to Wellington is one of the key projects in the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS). The strategy includes the following statements:

“Our distance from international markets is a barrier, but one that is being continually reduced through technology.”

“Our international research shows that long haul capability is a core component of successful regions. This is because of the tourism, exporting and business travel (and therefore business location) advantages it provides. Currently Wellington businesses or tourists that wish to travel or export to any country other than Australia must do so via Auckland or Christchurch. This is a handbrake on the regional economy and one that is being addressed.”

Positively Wellington Tourism has been leading this project, in partnership with Wellington International Airport Limited. The original target date for having long haul flights into Wellington was 2010. This was on the assumption that new aircraft would be available in 2008. Delays in the delivery of the new aircraft has meant the 2010 date will not be achieved.

Positively Wellington Tourism and Wellington International Airport Limited will make a presentation to the Committee on the project.

4. Communication

Positively Wellington Tourism is responsible for communicating activities associated with this activity.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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