

Slot Coordination New Zealand Limited (SCNZL)

Media Statement

11 March 2020

The Board of SCNZL met today and decided that in view of the significant reduction in global travel demand due to the current global COVID-19 situation, airlines operating to and from New Zealand should be granted alleviation from the 80/20 slot allocation rule for the forthcoming slot coordination season (29 March 2020 to 24 October 2020).

The 80/20 rule is part of the IATA Worldwide Slot Guidelines (WSG) which grant airlines historic slots at coordinated airports provided they have utilised at least 80% of their allocated slots during the preceding season.

The Board took account of major stakeholder and wider public interests. The Board noted IATA's statement that without certainty as to how their slots would be treated, airlines are faced with the impossible choice of flying half empty planes which is environmentally and economically unsustainable – or risking the loss of access to airports providing connectivity and economic growth.

The Board is confident that if the COVID -19 situation is brought under control in the near future airlines have strong commercial incentives to quickly reinstate services as passenger demand increases.

SCNZL is a not-for-profit company with responsibility for airport slot allocation at New Zealand international airports. Its shareholders are the Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand and New Zealand Airports Association Inc. The Board is comprised of four airline directors and four airport directors and an independent chairman.

As a result of the Board's decision today SCNZL has requested its appointed slot coordinator, ACL International Coordination Limited, to apply alleviation from the 80/20 rule for the pending Northern Summer coordination season (29 March 2020 to 24 October 2020).

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