

Media Release | 30 January 2026

Auckland Airport new board appointment

The Auckland Airport board has announced the appointment of Sean Donohue who joins as a new board director from today.

Mr Donohue was the Chief Executive of the world's third busiest airport for passenger traffic, Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), from 2013 to 2025. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer of Virgin Australia and prior to this he was Senior Vice President, Global Operations, at United Airlines, where he spent 25 years working for the company.

Mr Donohue is currently a non-executive director of Dallas-based Atmos Energy Corporation, the largest natural gas distributor in the United States. In 2025 he completed his service as both Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Aviation and Aerospace Governors Committee, and as an executive committee member of the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Auckland Airport Chair Julia Hoare said: "We are delighted to be welcoming Sean Donohue to the Board. His depth of experience in global aviation strategy and operations is highly aligned with the direction and aspirations of Auckland Airport. Under Sean's leadership Dallas Fort Worth delivered US\$7 billion in infrastructure improvements, strengthening resilience and improving operational performance. Sean also championed DFW's digital transformation, greatly improving the customer experience, and oversaw projects enabling the airport to be carbon net zero by 2030."

Mr Donohue said: "I'm really pleased to be reconnecting with New Zealand a decade on from my role with Virgin Australia. My appointment to the board comes at a pivotal time for Auckland Airport as it executes on its top-to-bottom transformation of its terminals and airfield. I've been both an airline customer of Auckland Airport and a leisure traveller through the airport. I'm excited at the prospect of serving on its board and contributing to the prosperity of New Zealand."

Shareholders will have the opportunity to vote on Mr Donohue's appointment at the Annual Meeting on 22 October 2026 and the Board will recommend that shareholders vote in favour of this. Mr Donohue's appointment follows the retirement of Christine Spring, who has been a director since 2014.

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