

# REPORT: AIRLINES: SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

## What you need to know

July 2022

This report presents a roundup of what's been happening to airlines in the Southwest Pacific region over the last month.

### Australia

#### Regional Express

##### Plans for conversion to electric propulsion

Regional Express (Rex) is partnering with Dovetail Electric Aviation to convert its fleet of 61 Saab 340 turboprops to electric propulsion. No timescale has been provided for the project, which will commence with Rex providing an aircraft to be used as a test bed for retrofitting it with MagniX engines.

##### National Jet Express acquisition agreed

Regional Express' subsidiary Rex Freight and Charter has agreed to buy National Jet Express (NJE), the regional services arm of Cobham Aviation Services Australia. NJE provides fly-in fly-out (FIFO) services in Western Australia and South Australia, air charter services in Papua New Guinea, and freight services from Sydney.

#### Virgin Australia

##### Five year codesharing approval tentatively granted

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has proposed granting authorization to Virgin Australia to enter into codeshare pricing arrangements with its international airline partners for five years. While it seeks a response to its proposals from interested parties, the ACCC has granted Virgin Australia interim authorization to conduct such code sharing activity with Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines and United Airlines.

### New Zealand

#### Air New Zealand

##### Passenger numbers up 6% in May

During May, Air New Zealand carried 891,000 passengers, **6% more** than in 2021, but still **31% below** 2019 levels. The airline increased capacity by 21% year-over-year, and with traffic rising by 67%, its load factor improved by **22.8 points to nearly 84%**. On domestic routes, passenger numbers fell by **4%** to 708,000, but they increased by **43%** to 145,000 on Tasman/Pacific routes.

##### Extra flights to Los Angeles and Seoul

Air New Zealand is adding frequencies to its existing services from Auckland to Los Angeles and Seoul. **Daily** services to Los Angeles will be complemented by a separate **thrice-weekly** service offered from **August 15** until **October 29**. Flights to Seoul will increase from once to **twice-weekly** between **September 12** and **October 24**.

## Other markets

### Fiji Airways

#### Two routes resumed

Fiji Airways has resumed services from Nadi to Adelaide and Vanuatu. Both routes are initially being operated [twice-weekly](#).

#### Vancouver services planned

Fiji Airways plans to start direct flights from Nandi to Vancouver from [November 25](#). The Canadian city will be the airline's 20<sup>th</sup> international destination and will be served [twice-weekly](#).

The information presented in this report represents the latest view as at July 26, 2022. We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained within this article.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this report, please email [mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk](mailto:mike.eggleson@bcdtravel.co.uk) to share your thoughts.