

## MEDIA | RELEASE

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### **New weather station for Central Otago**

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Contractors working for Christchurch Airport are installing three, solar-powered, wind meters (anemometers) on farmland in Tarras to measure the area's wind speed and direction in real time.

The anemometers will sit atop masts and are the first phase of an automatic weather station (AWS) that will provide data to the project exploring the potential for a new regional airport there.

Project Director Michael Singleton says while this is a minor construction job, it will make a big difference for the project team.

"Weather conditions have a big influence on airport planning and to date our analysis has been undertaken using ten years' worth of historical weather data that was modelled by NIWA. This AWS will give us site-specific data to help us further analyse the potential runway alignments," says Michael.

Installing the anemometers will take three days with equipment trucked to site, three 2x2 metre concrete pads will be poured before the masts are erected and fenced to protect them from stock.

Two of the masts (measuring 10 and 18 metres) will be installed on the airport's 750-hectare site, the third (measuring 10 metres) will be sited on a neighbouring farm.

Michael Singleton says the weather station is like those used at most operational airports.

"It will measure wind speed and direction, air pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, cloud cover and visibility. The technology is impressive – the ceilometer can measure up to three layers of cloud and the rain gauge will measure precipitation to within a tenth of a millimeter."

The station will feed data to an industrial computer for aggregation before it is sent back to the MetService.

"We've committed to doing this project well. That means ensuring that every decision we make is well-informed – this weather station will help achieve that," says Michael Singleton.

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### **Christchurch Airport**

Christchurch Airport is the international gateway to the South Island and a major driver of the South Island regional economy.

The airport has been named by travellers as one of the world's best airports and is consistently rated by an independent international quarterly travellers' survey as the best airport in Australian and New Zealand.

Before Covid-19, Christchurch Airport welcomes 11 airline partners, all of whom have indicated they will return when the New Zealand border re-opens.

In early 2021, the airport became the first in the world to achieve Level 4 decarbonisation accreditation under the Airports Council International programme – the highest accreditation an airport can achieve.

Visit [christchurchairport.co.nz](http://christchurchairport.co.nz) for more information.