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Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand to get back together

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Virgin Australia and Air New Zealand's trans-Tasman romance is set to be reignited following authorisation of a new codeshare agreement by Australian and New Zealand regulators.

Under the agreement, Virgin Australia customers will be able to directly book Air New Zealand flights into Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch, complementing Virgin Australia's Queenstown services. Velocity members will also be able to earn and redeem Velocity Points, and eligible members and guests will have access to lounges when flying across the Tasman.

Virgin Australia Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer Alistair Hartley said the long-awaited partnership would give Virgin Australia's customers access to a comprehensive network between Australia and New Zealand.

"Australians share our love of New Zealand and its national carrier and we can't wait to reignite this partnership before the end of the year," he said.

"The regulators' endorsement reflects the strong consumer benefits the partnership will unlock, including greater value, choice and loyalty rewards for travellers across the Tasman."

Air New Zealand Chief Transformation and Alliances Officer Mike Williams said the rekindled relationship would make it even easier for more Australians to make the short hop

across the ditch, with customers enjoying a taste of New Zealand before they've even landed.

"We know our Aussie friends are a travel-hungry bunch, so whether it's just a quick weekend trip to catch up with family or wanting to explore more of New Zealand, this partnership provides further options for more Australians to visit beautiful Aotearoa," he said.

"We look forward to welcoming Virgin Australia customers onboard, offering them our exceptional Kiwi service, including food, our great selection of New Zealand wines, and our crew's famous Manaaki (care)."

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