

## Airfreight in the time of COVID-19

With the governments of the world acting to stop the spread of COVID-19, there have been negative consequences for users of international trade and logistics. For Australia this has included price surges for freight – both sea and air – and the unavailability of services.

It is therefore critical that you maintain close contact with your freight forwarder/logistics company to understand any opportunities and/or risks that the current climate poses.

The situation is very fluid, however there have been a number of announcements bringing some certainty to airfreight options.

### Key actions

[Register your interest](#) in international freight options being coordinated by the Federal Government.

[Register your interest](#) for export of high value agricultural products in flights coordinated by the Federal Government

Monitor this industry led [freight notice board](#) for updated information on flights and charter opportunities.

The Federal Government announced the **COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Fund** on April 1, including the **International Freight Assistance Mechanism**. This mechanism is targeted at high-value agricultural and fisheries products that are predominately perishable and being exported to established customers. For more information and to see if you are eligible [click here](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/coronavirus/export/air-freight) (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/coronavirus/export/air-freight>)

There are a number of airlines that have confirmed their intention to offer continuing service during this time of disrupted logistics chains. The following information is based information available at the time of writing and is provided as a guide only. It is not absolute, and all shippers should verify flight availability with their transport service provider.

### Qantas

The national carrier has worked with the Federal Government to reintroduce passenger flights to multiple destinations (for repatriation) with limited airfreight capacity.

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
<b>New Zealand</b>	
Brisbane – Auckland	Thursdays and Saturdays
Auckland – Brisbane	Thursdays and Saturdays

Melbourne – Auckland	Sundays and Mondays
Auckland – Melbourne	Sundays and Mondays
<b>Hong Kong</b>	
Brisbane – Hong Kong	Wednesdays and Saturdays
Hong Kong – Brisbane	Wednesdays and Fridays
Melbourne – Hong Kong	Mondays and Fridays
Hong Kong – Melbourne	Mondays and Saturdays
<b>United States – Los Angeles (LAX)</b>	
Brisbane – Los Angeles	Thursdays
Los Angeles – Brisbane	Fridays
<b>Melbourne – Perth – London (Heathrow)</b>	
Melbourne – Perth	Sundays
Perth – London	Sundays
London – Perth	Wednesdays
Perth – Melbourne	Thursdays

For more information on Qantas' flight schedule and updates to services [click here](https://freight.qantas.com/news.html) (<https://freight.qantas.com/news.html>)

### Virgin Australia

At the current time there are two routes that the airline had announced, developed in partnership with the Federal Government for repatriation with belly-hold cargo space

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
Brisbane – Hong Kong	Mondays and Fridays
Hong Kong – Brisbane	Tuesdays and Saturdays
Brisbane – Los Angeles (LAX)	Wednesdays
Los Angeles (LAX) – Brisbane	Thursdays

For more information on Virgin Australia services [click here](https://flightstatus.virginaustralia.com/port) (<https://flightstatus.virginaustralia.com/port>)

### Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways has announced dedicated freighter flights from Australia to Doha, which will provide access to European destinations, including freight capacity on their remaining passenger routes. Some of the passenger routes still operating include:

- Europe: Amsterdam, Athens, Germany (Berlin, Frankfurt and Munich), Dublin, Paris, Rome, Prague, Vienna and Zurich
- Americas: Chicago, Dallas Fort Worth, Montréal, São Paulo and Washington.

The dedicated freight route is a multi-stop round-trip, running Doha – Melbourne – Perth – Doha, with tech stops in Singapore between Australia and Doha.

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
Perth – Doha	Tuesdays and Saturdays
Doha – Melbourne	Mondays and Thursdays

In addition, Qatar airways is also currently scheduling multiple passenger flights per week with belly-hold cargo space.

For more information on Qatar Airways' scheduled flights [click here](http://www.qrcargo.com/flightschedules) (<http://www.qrcargo.com/flightschedules>)

### Air New Zealand

The cross-Tasman airline has confirmed they will operate three routes between Australia and New Zealand until at least May 31, for essential workers and belly-hold airfreight. These flights are same day return.

They are also continuing to service select Pacific and long-haul services:

- Pacific Islands: Cook Island, Niue, and Norfolk
- Asia: Hong Kong, Shanghai
- Americas: Los Angeles

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
Auckland – Brisbane - Auckland	Sundays and Mondays
Auckland – Melbourne – Auckland	Mondays and Saturdays
Auckland – Sydney – Auckland	Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays

For more information on Air New Zealand's scheduled flights [click here](https://www.cargoportalservices.com/lmsweb/flight_schedules.jsp?retrieve=YES&selCarrier=NZ&selDate=08APR20&txtOrigin=MEL&txtDest=AKL&txtDepart=HH:MM&chkDirectFlights=N) ([https://www.cargoportalservices.com/lmsweb/flight\\_schedules.jsp?retrieve=YES&selCarrier=NZ&selDate=08APR20&txtOrigin=MEL&txtDest=AKL&txtDepart=HH:MM&chkDirectFlights=N](https://www.cargoportalservices.com/lmsweb/flight_schedules.jsp?retrieve=YES&selCarrier=NZ&selDate=08APR20&txtOrigin=MEL&txtDest=AKL&txtDepart=HH:MM&chkDirectFlights=N)) (this is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party website)

### Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines (and its subsidiary airlines) is still operating it's full airfreight network and is also currently still operating a number of passenger flights with belly-hold cargo capacity.

Some of their connecting freight routes include:

- Europe: Amsterdam, London and Brussels
- Middle East and Asia: Hong Kong, India (Chennai, Bangalore and Mumbai), Sharjah and Shanghai.
- Americas: Anchorage, Dallas Fort Worth and Los Angeles.

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
Singapore – Sydney – Melbourne – Singapore	Sundays
Singapore – Sydney – Melbourne – Auckland - Singapore	Wednesdays
Singapore – Sydney – Singapore	Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
Singapore – Melbourne – Auckland – Melbourne – Singapore	Saturdays
Singapore – Sydney – Auckland – Melbourne – Singapore	Tuesdays
Singapore – Sydney – Auckland – Singapore	Thursdays

For more information on Singapore Airlines routes, including current passenger flights) [click here \(http://www.siacargo.com/ccn/ScheduleSearch.aspx\)](http://www.siacargo.com/ccn/ScheduleSearch.aspx)

### Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines is currently running regular airfreight services between Sydney/Melbourne and Kuala Lumpur. Their connecting routes in operation at the time of writing include:

- Europe: Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London,
- Middle East and Asia: Hanoi, India (Chennai, Mumbai), Manila, Shanghai, Tokyo and Seoul

Port of Departure - Port of Arrival	Days of the week
Kuala Lumpur – Sydney – Kuala Lumpur	Most days
Kuala Lumpur – Melbourne – Kuala Lumpur	Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays (some ad hoc dates also)

For more information on Malaysia Airlines scheduled flights [click here \(http://www.maskargo.com/\)](http://www.maskargo.com/).

The Freight and Trade alliance have created a Bulletin Board with information on Chartered flights with additional space and ad hoc cargo flights. For more information [click here \(https://www.ftalliance.com.au/classifieds/covid-19-air-cargo-bulletin-board\)](https://www.ftalliance.com.au/classifieds/covid-19-air-cargo-bulletin-board)

Ai Group is currently taking submissions on our Freight Needs Register, to assist in our advocating of business needs in this time of upheaval. [Register your Freight requirements here \(https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIGHubfreightregister\)](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BIGHubfreightregister)