



Media release

26 February 2007

Super Air opens new facilities near Taupo

Super Air has recently opened the latest in its series of all-weather hub-and-spoke airstrips, this one at Tutukau Road, some 10 kilometres north of Wairakei.

Located on Wally and Karen Niederer's property, this newly redeveloped strip offers farmers in the district much greater freedom when it comes to applying fertiliser. The reason is the combination of an excellent strip and superb storage facilities, which make it possible to top-dress in all but the worst weather.

Super Air's central North Island representative Rod Sloane was the first to see the potential of the site. 'There are a lot of intensive dairying operations in this district,' says Rod, 'and the land is pretty hilly for ground-spread. Many of the farmers I spoke to said they would love to be able to use aerial services, but they didn't have the land for a strip.'

Enter the Niederers, whose extensive property already had a strip in place. 'We discussed the possibility of using their strip as a base for our operations, and they were very supportive,' says Rod.

Seven months after conception the new strip was in operation, along with a three-bay, 250-tonne bin that makes the most of the natural contours on the land. The bin is filled from the top, fertiliser being tipped in over a 4-metre embankment. The permanent roof keeps the product dry and is easy to use, overcoming all the risks and challenges of tarpaulin-style covers. The three bays mean that Super Air can offer flexibility of service, which helps to keep costs down.

The airstrip itself is tar-sealed, with a slightly sloping aspect and excellent approach and departure flight paths. One plane flying from the strip will be able to service farms within a 10-kilometre radius, which means that up to 3500 tonnes of fertiliser could be applied from the strip each year.

The development of safe airstrips and high-quality storage facilities is part of Super Air's ongoing programme to ensure that its customers can be serviced effectively without compromising the health and safety of pilots and loader drivers.

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